March 8: International Women's Day

Tamil Nadu celebrates 'Pudhumai Penn' with its multifarious schemes for women

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on International Women's Day *(English Translation)*.

"Mahakavi Bharathiar said : `This world will flourish with superior intelligence if men and women are considered equal '("Aanum pennum nigar ena kolvadhaal, arivil wongi ivvaiyam thazhaikkumaam"). In tune with these lines of Bharathiar's verse, International Women's Day is observed every year on March 8, to honour the excellence and greatness of women and to remind the world of women's contribution to the growth of society. On this day, I extend my hearty good wishes to all women.

By way of honouring women, we call our country as 'Thaai Thirunaadu' ('Motherland'), our language 'Thaai Mozhi' ('Mother tongue') and name the rivers after women and we are happy over it. To make the lives of such praiseworthy women glorious, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented countless schemes which no other state in India did. These include cradle baby scheme to prevent female infanticide, girl child protection scheme, along with marriage assistance, gold distribution scheme for 'thirumangalyam' for poor women, distribution of sanitary napkins to adolescent girls at no cost, 9-months maternity leave for pregnant women in Government offices, free mixie, grinder and fan to house wives, free distribution of cow and goats, all women's police stations – the first of its kind in India – a 13-point programme to root out crimes against women, working women hostels, Kalpana Chawla Gallantry Award for women, Avvaiyar Award for women for excellence, a historic 50 per cent reservation for women in Local Bodies and Community Bangle function ('Samudhaaya Valaikaappu Vizha') for pregnant women under the Integrated Child Development Works Scheme.

The Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines laid out by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, continues to implement all the women's welfare schemes of Hon'ble Amma and has enhanced the cash assistance under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme, from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.18,000/- and has introduced and implemented many pioneering schemes like Amma Two-Wheeler Scheme for the benefit of working women.

In the list of safe cities and metros for women, notified by the National Crime Records Bureau, Coimbatore city and Chennai Metro have been enumerated. This testifies, once again to the great interest evinced by Hon'ble Amma's Government in women's safety. Also, 'SHe Box' (Sexual Harassment electronic Complaint Box) has been created through Internet in all Districts for women to lodge complaints in respect of violation of women's rights, sexual atrocities and extraordinary situations that develop in work places. This is monitored by the officials of the social welfare Department. Besides, setting up a "One Stop Centre" to offer medical and legal assistance to women victims of violence and offer them consultations, an awareness is also being instilled about the social welfare schemes and social safety laws for women.

My good wishes to women to boldly and firmly face the hurdles in life, to turn them into stepping stones for victory and shine high in the world as the lamp that removes darkness. Once again, I extend my Women's Day good wishes".

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> "Tamil Nadu is the number one State in India in maintenance of law and order, human resources development and economic growth."

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Prime Minister **Thiru. Narendra Modi** inaugurated the Amma two-wheeler scheme for working women at a function held at Kalaiavanar Arangam, Chennai on 24.02.2018, in connection with the 70th birth anniversary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Governor **Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and Shipping Thiru.Pon. Radhakrishnan and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam** participated in the function.

Thanking Prime Minister for launching Amma two wheeler scheme

Chief Minister requests for expedite constitution of Cauvery Board

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the functions to distribute Amma scooters to working women at subsidized price and to plant tree saplings, held in connection with the 70th birth anniversary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 24.02.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Bowing to Goddess Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

I pay my grateful respects to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India who consented happily, when invited, to participate in the birth anniversary function of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and inaugurate the Amma two-wheeler scheme.

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Hon'ble Speaker of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs, Chief Secretary to Government, top officials of the Government, Ladies, Elders, Beneficiaries, Media friends, I offer my humble respects to all of you.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the very personification of Heroic Energy ('Veera Sakthi') that attracted people through welfare schemes and protected them through laws; a 'Magnetic Force' that dominated the fields of cinema and politics for half a century and made them gyrate around it; the 'Soul Force' whose every passing day became history; the 'Queen of Womenfolk' ('Mangayarkarasi')

whom Tamil Nadu begot after a great penance; the 'Family Deity' worshipped by Tamil Nadu after raising a temple for Her; the 'Vedic Chant 'recited without fail in Tamils' houses; an ever-present 'Living Divine Force' that was born in the star Magam, conquered an entire Yugam and vowed to "remain with my people for ever, as my home and heart is only Tamil Nadu".

On this birthday of yours, I recall, with a heavy heart and misty eyes, some of the imprints you have left behind in your life of sacrifice, akin to a sandal billet that grinds itself as sandal paste so that Tamils can exude fragrance everywhere!

'Amma endraal Anbu' (Mother means Love) was the first song Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma sang for cinema. Later, she turned into an 'Amma' for the entire Tamil population. If Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma presented a Budget in the Assembly, one could see, page after page of the Budget, the smiling faces of the lowest strata of people such as the poor, workers, fisherfolk, farmers and women.

"I have immense interest in uplifting the lowest sections of the society like the poor and the marginalized, destitutes, senior citizens and widows" - so saying , Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma speedily took the people of Tamil Nadu on the path of growth by designing a scheme every hour and finding a way every minute to execute them.

It was Amma who recited the new mantra - "if water resources improve, land fertility will go up; if land fertility rises, world will prosper". Convinced that saving water is even more important than saving money, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, with a visionary outlook, implemented the 'Rain Water Harvesting Scheme' and made the world look at Tamil Nadu intently. On account of the many educational programmes of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma like free distribution of 14 kinds of educational aids to students, free laptop, bicycle and bus pass, Tamil Nadu achieved the magnificent status as 'the best State in education' ('Kalviyir Sirantha Tamizh Naadu'). By opening 65 colleges in rural areas, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma helped poor students realize their dream of higher education. This pushed Tamil Nadu, with its 46.9 per cent enrollment in higher education, into the status of the premier State in India. Tamil Nadu's tally is nearly double the national average of 25.2 per cent.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave countless welfare schemes to the poor like marriage cash assistance to the educated poor women and 8 gms of gold, Chief Minister's comprehensive medical insurance scheme, social security scheme, rice at no cost, milch animals at no cost, fan, grinder and mixie at no cost, budget restaurant, drinking water, salt, cement, pharmacy, child care prize kit, maternity sanjeevi and whole body scan scheme - all with the brand name Amma, Breast Milk Bank, cradle baby scheme, annadhaana scheme in temples and pension scheme for the ulemas.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma squarely fits the meaning of the song: 'Nee kadavulai

paarthathu kidaiyadhu – avan karuppa? sivappa? Theriyadhu. Eraivan oruvan irukkindraan – indha ezhaigal sirippil therigindraan' ('You have not seen God; you don't know whether He is dark or fair. There is one god and He is visible in the smiles of the poor').

In an interaction with school students from different parts of the country on 16.02.2018 at Delhi, Hon'ble Prime Minister said: "Tamil language is more ancient than Sanskrit; I regret that I have not learnt that language. Tamil language has many specialities of its own". I thank Hon'ble Prime Minister from my heart, on behalf of people of Tamil Nadu, for having praised the Tamil language as an ancient and beautiful language in his recent interaction with students.

Hon'ble Amma devised many schemes to make Tamil Nadu a Green State. Hon'ble Amma started a massive programme of planting tree saplings, not merely in forest areas but in vacant places outside the forests. With the view that the Government should be a model in implementing the scheme, Hon'ble Amma issued orders in 2012 for planting 64 lakh tree saplings beginning with her 64th birthday on February 24 and before December that year implemented it very effectively.

As a follow up of this, every year on the birth anniversary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a function was held to plant tree saplings in a huge scale and lakhs of saplings were planted all over that year. This year, the 70th birth anniversary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is being celebrated and the target is to plant 70 lakh saplings in the course of this year. I am happy Hon'ble Prime Minister has inaugurated the programme by planting a sapling in the Kalaivanar Arangam complex.

On the very first day of assuming office as Chief Minister on 16.02.2017 with the blessings and grace of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the first five files on which I signed pertained to five schemes that were among the election promises made by Hon'ble Amma. The first among those five schemes that I had signed, is 'Amma two-wheeler scheme'. Hon'ble Prime Minister, inaugurated the scheme today, the birth anniversary day of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the sacred daughter of Mother Tamil, adding further glory to this scheme. Through this scheme, every year, one lakh working women will be given a 50 per cent subsidy, subject to a ceiling of Rs.25,000/- for purchase of two-wheelers. This will help working women to remain free and independent, reach their work place quickly, take their children to school and be punctual in all their works.

Kavimani Desika Vinayakam Pillai sang 'Mangayaraai pirappatharke nalla maathavam seidhida vaendumamma' ('to be born as a woman, one should have performed great penance'). Like Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who showed great interest in the progress of women, born through such great penance, Hon'ble Prime Minister, who is working fast to make India a Super Power, is greatly interested in women's development and is implementing many schemes to the admiration of the whole Country.

The 'Amma two-wheeler scheme function', has found a place in history as it has been inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister. While thanking the Hon'ble Prime Minister once again on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu for this gesture, I wish to place a small request to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on behalf of Tamil Nadu people.

Sir,

I thank you very much for gracing the occasion of Amma's 70th birthday and inauguration of the 'Amma Two wheeler scheme' for working women and also the 'Massive Tree Planting scheme' which are close to Amma's heart.

On this momentous occasion, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu I would like to request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to take speedy action to form the 'Cauvery Management Board' and the 'Cauvery Water Regulation Committee' as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

■

In opening address to District Collectors and SPs..

Chief Minister urges co-ordinated action

Inaugural address of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, at the conference of District Collectors and Police officers on 05.03.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Offering obeisance to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Home Department, Director General of Police, Secretaries to Government of all Departments, top officers of the Police Department, Heads of Departments, District Collectors, Police

Commissioners, Superintendents of Police - at the outset, I offer my respects to all of you.

I am happy to participate in today's conference of District Collectors and Police officers and interact with you.

With people's welfare as the sole goal, as demonstrated by its many policy decisions, announcements of various developmental schemes and foundation laying for them and implementation of many new schemes, this Government, that functions as per the guidelines laid by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is taking Tamil Nadu on the path of growth.

This conference will help Hon'ble Amma's Government to better its work in the service of people, take Government's welfare programmes more efficiently to people and to act after getting your suggestions. Besides, this conference will motivate us to work vigorously for people's prosperity and protection of their welfare.

The main goals of this conference are: effective maintenance of law and order, offering Government services to people transparently, efficiently and speedily, quickening the pace of economic growth, improving basic facilities, creating speedily new infrastructure facilities and taking Tamil Nadu on the path of growth on the basis of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's 'taaraka' mantra – "peace, prosperity, progress".

"Are we on the side of people – this is my constant thought, rather than the thought whether the people are on our side. I am always thinking about the ways in which I can do good to the people who have reposed their trust in me". These are Hon'ble Amma's immortal words. I affectionately request you to keep Hon'ble Amma's words in your mind, implement the schemes for people's welfare using your power and be a bridge to take Government's schemes to the people, and act as their servants''.

Peace is possible in the state only through safe-guarding law and order by the District Collectors and Police officials. Moreover, it is the District Collectors and Police officials who are responsible for all the events that take place in the District. If the District Collectors think that they are responsible only for development works and welfare schemes and

the superintendents of Police feel that law and order is their exclusive domain and act without informing the District collector, it is the District's law and order that will suffer. If both of you act jointly as two eyes and not as planet Earth's two poles, law and order can be maintained more effectively".

For proper maintenance of law and order, Police and revenue department officials in rural and urban areas should collect intelligence in advance on possible law and order problems and pass on their information to their superior officers then and there. They should consider this as their important work. In consonance with the proverb 'nip it in the bud', action should be initiated to defuse a law and order problem even before it surfaces.

Terrorism, communalism and leftist extremism are the greatest threats to society. To effectively face these challenges, our intelligence wings should be strengthened, formation of terrorist outfits should be prevented and weeded out in the initial stage itself. All of you should work with the goal of taking the state on the path of growth by controlling destructive forces. In this way, you will continue to keep the state as a garden of peace in Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's way.

Severe action should be taken immediately under the National Security Act against persons and organizations whose actions threaten national and inland security.

District Collectors and superintendents of Police should always keep sensitive areas that are vulnerable to caste clashes under their vigil. This should command priority in the agenda of your weekly law and order meetings and get discussed. Now and then, communal harmony meetings should be conducted. Anti-social groups that want to kindle the cruel fire of caste feelings and enjoy comfort out of it , should be identified and unity in society established by removing the differences.

Police should increase patrolling work to curb robbery and chain-snatching. They should do visible policing. They should employ modern technology and install CCTV cameras in different places for preventing crimes and for acting speedily to trace the culprits in crimes that have occurred. Appropriate action should be initiated to control the occurrence of murders due to prior enmity and business rivalry.

Of late, a new culture has reared its head among the youth - threatening people in public places at knife point. Suitable measures should be taken to eradicate this trend totally.

Higher Police officers should monitor the work of traffic constables now and then, to ensure that they are discharging their duty of removing traffic congestion with involvement. With private participation, they should install CCTV cameras for taking action against those who violate traffic rules.

Road accidents cause great suffering and loss to individuals. To prevent them, accident-prone areas should be identified and appropriate steps should be taken to make them accident-free zones by streamlining the roads there, placing barricades and caution boards to limit the speed of the passing vehicles.

Patrolling of highways should be further intensified. I wish to point out that for patrol duty, vehicles have been given in good measure.

On complaints regarding collection of usurious rates of interest, appropriate and speedy action should be taken, invoking the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest Act of 2003.

Severe action should be taken against single digit lottery, Net gambling, gutka and narcotics sale and the like with the realization that they will greatly affect the people, particularly the youth. Constables should be made responsible and severe action should be taken against them if it comes to light that such crimes are taking place in areas under their jurisdiction.

Steps should be taken to prevent economic offences, crimes against women and children and honour killing on casteist considerations. When complaints are lodged in this regard, cases should be registered without delay and appropriate serial action should be taken to arraign the culprits before law and get them punishment.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is always interested in the welfare of the scheduled castes and tribes and works accordingly. Complaints in regard to perpetration of atrocities against them should be registered and action should be taken impartially under the relevant Act.

It is no exaggeration that coastal security plays an important role in the internal and external security of India. Officials working in coastal Districts should keep in mind that coast guards, coastal Police force and the joint initiative of the village rural administration are essential for the country's defence and as such pay special attention to this aspect.

As illegal usage of explosives causes havoc, it should be brought under total control. District Collectors and Police officials should ensure this through surprise inspection of the places of manufacture of explosives and their storage facilities .

Hon'ble Amma's Government is firm in preventing manufacture and use of illicit liquor. Intensive action should be taken for their total eradication.

In safeguarding temples, the District administration and the departments of police, fire services, public works and the HR & CE should work jointly without doubts arising in the minds of people as events like fire accident in temples could leave behind. Keeping in mind that there should not be a repeat of the fire accident anywhere else as had happened recently at the Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple, you should work in coordination with all departments.

When inevitable natural calamities occur, Hon'ble Amma's Government takes precautionary and rescue measures without any slackening, to mitigate their impact and thus protects the people of Tamil Nadu even as "eye-lashes protect the eyes". Also, the Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force has been formed and it acts quickly and rescues people during times of disaster.

Individuals and private companies spring up now and then to swindle people through false promises, of the money they have saved little by little. For preventing this, awareness should be created among people. Police should produce short documentaries and screen them to people. The District administration and the Police should be vigilant and initiate legal proceedings quickly against such persons and companies even if a small doubt arises about them.

Prisons are there to reform convicts. But, if there are activities within the prisons that instigate perpetuation of crimes, there is the danger of criminal activities increasing in society. Hence, supervision in prisons should be intensified further and severe action should be taken by jail officials against persons who indulge in such activities.

Hon'ble Amma stated: "This Government's goal is to make Tamil Nadu walk majestically on the path of growth and to make Tamil Nadu the numero uno State in India". I request the District Collectors and the District Police officers to work keeping this goal in mind. I invite them to put forth their constructive arguments on law and order and on developmental works and improve the State's Development.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Chief Minister greets Padma award winners belonging to Tamil Nadu

Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami has greeted the Padma Award winners belonging to Tamil Nadu.

Ilaiyaraja, the top class music director of the music world, has composed music for films in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and in many other languages. He has undergone regular training in folk music, Carnatic music and Western music and has been conferred with Padma Vibhushan Award, the second highest Padma Award of the Country. I express my hearty congratulations to him with pride.

I extend my congratulations to archaeologist Thiru. Ramachandra Nagaswami, who has been acclaimed for his work in archaeology by all, for getting the Padma Bhushan Award.

I extend my warm greetings to Tmt. Nanammal for getting the Padma Sri Award. She belongs to Coimbatore District and learnt 'yoga' early in her life. She has the proud distinction of giving training to over 600 Yoga teachers.

Similarly, Padma Sri Awards have been announced for well-known folk music singer Tmt. Vijayalakshmi Navaneethakrishnan, Thiru. Rajagopalan Vasudevan, Professor of Thiagarajar College of Engineering, who successfully developed a technology for using plastic waste for road laying and Thiru.Romulus Whitaker, who has set up a snake and crocodile park in Chennai.

These people have brought laurels to Tamil Nadu. On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government and on my own behalf I congratulate Ilaiyaraja, Thiru. Ramachandran Nagaswami, Tmt. Vijayalakshmi Navaneethakrishnan, Thiru. Rajagopala Vasudevan and Thiru. Romulus Whitaker. I wish these Padma Award recipients win more awards in future.

Congratulating officials for good work, Chief Minister tells them…

'Files are not sheets of paper, they are people's lives, act fast'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Collectors Conference on 06.03.2018 *(English Translation).*

Bowing before the Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government, Government Department Secretaries, Heads of Departments, District Collectors and Government Officers - My respects to all of you.

Yesterday, we had a fruitful discussion on the maintenance of law and order in Tamil Nadu. Today, we propose to discuss developmental schemes and social welfare schemes.

This conference provides a good opportunity to review the implementation of the welfare programmes and the new initiatives taken by Hon'ble Amma and, in continuation, by this Hon'ble Amma's Government.

The centenary function of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was celebrated excellently all over Tamil Nadu. On this occasion, I express my heartfelt thanks to the District administration for extending wholehearted cooperation to it.

Likewise, the Tamil Nadu Government has called for the celebration of the current year as the "Golden Jubilee Year" of re-naming the State as Tamil Nadu. Accordingly, the District Collectors should conduct excellently different events like sports competitions, essay and oratorical competitions in their Districts. As a culmination of these events, a huge function is proposed to be held at Chennai.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had stated: "My thoughts revolve around people only; my actions are all people-centric". Hence, District Collectors should be vigilant to see Hon'ble Amma's Government takes all the schemes announced by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, to the weakest sections of the society – Adi Dravidar, scheduled tribes, backward, most backward, minorities, senior citizens, women, children and the differently abled.

The growth of agriculture not only removes the disease of hunger in the country, but helps the development of other industries, as stated by Valluvar – 'The revolving world depends on agriculture' ('suzhandrum aerpinnathu ulagam'). Last year, there was an unprecedented drought in the State. Orders were issued to provide an input subsidy of Rs.2,247 crore to the affected farmers. Also, Tamil Nadu Government got a compensation of Rs. 3,046 crore for farmers from the insurance companies and thus set up a record, as you have implemented the crop insurance scheme very effectively. This compensation amount is distributed to farmers in stages.

By way of improving farmers' income, our Government has introduced pioneering schemes like co-ordinated joint farming scheme, scheme for prolonged dry farming, management of

distribution chain and permission for ‘neera drink’ production. District Collectors should act as guides to fully acquaint farmers of these schemes for deriving benefits out of them.

Micro irrigation should be expanded for getting maximum income out of minimum utilization of water through best water management.

To help farmers earn additional income, besides agricultural income, Hon’ble Amma introduced farm connected schemes of free distribution of milch cows and goats, poultry and fish rearing schemes. Hon’ble Amma’s Government too is implementing these schemes effectively. District Collectors should take up these schemes vigorously. For getting good price for agriculture and horticulture crops, you should create farmer-producer institutions in a big way. The Agriculture and Horticulture Departments should take all steps towards this end.

Avvai Paatti said: “Water collection in the field will rise if the bund is raised; paddy yield will rise if there is plenty of water; abundant paddy production will improve people’s status”. In accordance with this saying, Hon’ble Amma’s Government inaugurated last year ‘kudimaramathu’ works with farmers’ contribution. District Collectors should maintain the full storage levels of water bodies by removing encroachments and by de-silting them. To cater to farmers’ interest, Hon’ble Amma’s Government has started and continues the free distribution of the de-silted sand. This scheme should be implemented more effectively.

Associations should be formed with farmers in the respective ayacut areas of water bodies that irrigate their lands. District Collectors should take steps for this with the co-ordination of the Departments of PWD and Agriculture.

Hon’ble Prime Minister has inaugurated the planting of 70 lakh tree saplings in connection with the 70th birth anniversary of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. District Collectors should select suitable sites for this programme and increase the green cover by consistent maintenance.

A country’s progress is measured by the quality of education offered. Hence Hon’ble Amma’s Government has given priority to school education and has brought about a renaissance in the field of education through introducing many rare schemes and creating infrastructure facilities on a large scale.

Introduction of new syllabi and setting up of high-tech computer laboratories and smart classes testify to this. These schemes should increase student’s enrollment rate in your Districts. The practice of dropping out of studies should be prevented totally. Pass percentage should improve. Students’ self confidence should develop multi-fold. District Collectors should take adequate steps to achieve all these. To improve the self confidence of students, District Collectors should make arrangements, together with the Department of School Education, to provide counselling for developing a robust mind.

Proper functioning of nutritious meal centres in schools and anganwadi centres for children should be monitored continuously.

Infrastructure facilities like adequate drinking water supply and electricity should be ensured for these centres.

While constructing buildings/additional buildings for schools and colleges, provision of all basic facilities such as drinking water and toilet should be made. District Collectors should take adequate steps through the local body institutions concerned and the PWD for implementing them.

The execution of the many social security schemes like marriage assistance for educated poor women, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance and Amma Two-Wheeler scheme and the working of the women's self-help groups should be constantly scrutinized and hurdles facing them, if any, should be removed immediately. Beneficiaries of these schemes should be identified in a transparent way and it should be ensured that the intended benefits reach them.

Collectors should examine the availability of basic needs, like drinking water, roads, toilet and street light facilities, in all the residential areas of Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes and take immediate steps to provide the facilities where they are absent and maintain them in a regular way.

Hostels for Adi Dravidar, Scheduled Tribes, Backward, Most Backward and de-notified community students should be inspected for the availability of basic facilities and those hostels should be maintained properly.

Tamil Nadu remains the model state in India in implementing the public distribution system to all. This Government is successfully implementing the 'smart card scheme for proper distribution of essential commodities through the fair price shops. District Collectors should undertake constant inspection of the fair price shops and the godowns where food articles are stored for ensuring that essential commodities are reaching the people under the PDS.

The 'Amma Restaurants', functioning in all municipal corporations and municipalities, have become the 'Divine Bowl' (Akshaya Paathram) for the poor and marginalized people. District Collectors should make sure that they continue to operate excellently.

To make Tamil Nadu the premier state in India in health indices, District Collectors should pay special attention in achieving zero mother-infant mortality rate in their Districts. To protect people from infectious diseases, District Collectors should control such diseases in the initial stages itself by co-ordinating with the local body institutions and the Health Departments. By creating awareness among people in a proper way and by constructing private and public toilets as the situation warranted, Tamil Nadu should get the honour of being a state free of 'open defecation'. Through solid waste management, waste materials should be segregated into different categories and District Collectors should encourage initiatives for re-cycling them / producing manure out of them.

It is my desire that you should be ever concerned about people's welfare, extend a helping hand to them and work as a servant and wipe out their distress by directly going to the

field when law and order, natural disasters or local issues confront them. I hope all of you will carry out my desire.

Last year, you efficiently managed the drought, despite inadequate monsoon, fulfilled the drinking water needs of people and earned a good name for the State. Likewise, this year, you should make sure that there is 'no drinking water problem' during the summer months.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is setting up common service centres to provide the services of different departments to people in places nearer to their residence. District Collectors should inspect these centres now and then and ascertain whether they are working effectively and rectify the deficiencies if there are any.

Land acquisition works for roads, bridges and essential infrastructure facilities should commence within the prescribed time limits. Those works should be speedily taken up by appointing suitable officials.

Whenever orders for free house site pattas or changes in patta, are issued, the District Revenue Officials should make sure that the matter is recorded in all land documents from the village to District levels. District Collectors should audit them periodically.

Certificates issued by different departments should be cross-checked through field inspection and inquiries and dispatched speedily only to the eligible persons. District Collectors should not hesitate to take severe action against the officials concerned if mistakes had taken place in them.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking many steps in the interests of Government servants. Most importantly, it has enforced the 7th pay commission recommendations and has brought about parity of pay between the Central and State Government servants. In many Districts, it has demolished Housing Board's old tenements and is constructing new ones in the interests of Government servants.

Files are not mere sheets of paper. In their background are the lives of individuals or issues or community programmes. So, without allowing the files to stagnate, you have to find solutions speedily and immediately.

For redressal of people's grievances, you are conducting weekly and monthly meetings like 'Amma Thittam', 'People's grievances redressal day', 'Manu Needhi Day' and 'Fishermen and Farmers' Grievances Redressal Day'. By bestowing special attention to the petitions received on such occasions and taking constructive action on them, you should create in people a sense of goodwill and confidence in respect of the Government.

After coming to know of the problems of the people through subordinate officials, you should resolve them speedily. Issues that cannot be solved at your level, should be brought to the notice of the Government. This conference is a good place for that.

I invite constructive views regarding the important aspects of your Districts. ■

‘Implement welfare schemes to reach the people without any leakage’

Valedictory address of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the District Collectors Conference on 06.03.2018 *(English Translation).*

Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon’ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government, Government Department Secretaries, Heads of Departments, District Collectors,

Yesterday, there was a good discussion by District Collectors on the maintenance of law and order. Today, you shared many good viewpoints on implementing and taking to people Government’s various welfare schemes and developmental works.

Tamil Nadu remains the number one State in India in safeguarding law and order, in

human resources development and in economic growth. It is no exaggeration to say that this is due to the effective work put in by all of you.

In this conference, there was a good interaction amongst you. I think you would have made a comparative study of your own District's performance with those of other Districts. This would have made you introspect. I hope this would have enhanced your perception about the implementation of different welfare programmes and developmental schemes.

Like a general physician, it is very important for District Collectors to provide solutions to the needs and problems of the people. You have to give exclusive attention to complaints and petitions received from the people and categorize them; to find a complete solution on such complaints and petitions, you have to work in coordination with officials of all Departments at the District level.

Though it is very important to hold weekly and monthly review meetings for the different Departments, field inspection is a good opportunity to ascertain the true state of affairs in respect of a scheme. Hence, District Collectors should go on field inspection without fail.

Also, District Collectors should pay special attention on meeting the basic necessities of people like supply of drinking water, distribution of house site pattas etc., and in taking the benefits of Government welfare schemes like pension and marriage assistance schemes, without any leakage, to the socially and economically backward people.

We should all work speedily to achieve the goals set in the "Tamil Nadu Vision 2023" Plan, released by Hon'ble Amma.

"Mudivum idaiyoorum mutriyaangu aeidhum/ padu payanum paarthu cheyal" (An action must be performed after considering the effort required, the obstacles to be encountered, and the great profit to be gained by completing it). In accordance with this saying of Tiruvalluvar, I request all of you to implement properly and successfully the welfare and developmental schemes after fixing the methodology for completing the work, examining the great benefits that will accrue and confronting the hurdles that may arise.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "Success is sure if you do a thing with total involvement. If you do that with a sense of social dedication, then it is Service to the Nation". My good wishes and greetings for your work to improve further as per Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's statement.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Chief Minister announces slew of measures in response to District Collectors, Police Officials

Valedictory address of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the District Collector and Police Officers conference on 07.03.2018 *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, Respected Chief Secretary to Government, Respected Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Respected Director General of Police and top police officials, District Collectors, District Superintendents of Police - at the outset, I offer my respects to all of you.

" The poor should not remain poor for ever; their status should rise; I am toiling day and night only for that" - so said Hon'ble Amma. This Government is journeying in her path to fulfill her desire.

I am very happy that our interaction in the last 3 days was geared towards taking Tamil Nadu on the path of progress. I feel that each and every view or suggestion made by the District Collectors and Police Officials was but an opportunity for me to know your interest in the development of the State.

The debate on the first day was in respect of District administration and law and order; on the second day it was on the welfare of people and how to meet their needs in a proper way; and today, Police Officials spoke about their work and sought Government's orders in some spheres. I hope you would have realized well the need to take to people, this Government's policies and welfare schemes in a better way than before.

Tamil Nadu remains a garden of peace on account of the freedom given to the Police Department. I am proud to state that Tamil Nadu is one of the states where law and order is administered excellently. All of you have a share in this. For that, I congratulate you heartily.

I firmly believe that the views exchanged here will pave the way for fulfilling the needs of the people. As field workers, it is your prime duty to make sure that the people-oriented schemes reach them correctly. In a democracy, people are all in all. You should make use of the rare opportunity that you have got to serve them with dedication.

My congratulations to the District Collectors who are to receive awards for effective implementation of the Government's different welfare schemes.

As for the demands you have placed in this conference, the Government is ready to do the needful. In this regard, I am happy to make the following announcements after examining your demands.

Ariyalur District:

- An additional building will be constructed at a cost of Rs.20 crore for the maternity and child care ward at the Jayamkondam Government Headquarters Hospital;

Perambalur District:

- Survey works will be taken up for construction of a reservoir in place of the check dam at the Chinnamutloo area;
- A survey will be made for implementing a drinking water scheme for areas in Veppur union, by digging deep borewells in the Vellar river;

Thanjavur District:

- A high rise bridge will be constructed across the Coleroon at a cost of Rs.56 crore to connect Kapisthalam in Papanasam taluk, Thanjavur District and Melaramanallur area in Ariyalur District. A detailed project report will be prepared for this work;

Nagapattinam District:

- A survey will be undertaken for setting up an additional pumping station under the Coleroon Combined Water Supply Scheme;

- A new office building will be constructed for the Home Guards division at the Nagapattinam Armed Police Complex at a cost of Rs.40 lakh;
- A new building at a cost of Rs.15 lakh will be constructed for the Vellipalayam Police Station;

Cuddalore District:

- Land acquisition will be expedited for construction of a barrage between Adhanur and Kumaramangalam;
- Jawans Bhavan road will be developed at a cost of Rs.2 crore and used as an alternative route to enable construction of a railway over bridge at the railway level crossing no.157 on the Kambiampettai-Chemmandalam road, Cuddalore;

Ramanathapuram District:

- New Police Station buildings will be constructed at Keezhakarai, Valinokkam, Nainarkoil and Peraiyur at a cost of Rs.4.64 crore;
- A residence cum camp office will be constructed for the Mudukulathur sub-division deputy superintendent of police at a cost of Rs.61 lakh;

Dharmapuri District :

- Additional buildings will be constructed at a cost of Rs.6 crore for Palacode Government Hospital;

Krishnagiri District:

- The damaged shutters of KRP dam will be renewed at a cost of Rs.24 crore;

Vellore District:

- Deep bore wells will be sunk at many places at a cost of Rs.1.19 crore for removing water shortage in Police Stations and in police lines;

Virudhunagar District:

- Medical appliances will be supplied to the Emergency Ward of the Virudhunagar District Government Headquarters Hospital at an expenditure of Rs.1.10 crore and its grade will be enhanced;
- The Sivakasi Police dispensary building will be renovated at a cost of Rs.77 lakh;

Pudukkottai District:

- A dormitory for 100 constables will be set up at Pudukkottai at a cost of Rs.1.80 crore;

Tiruvarur District:

- A survey will be undertaken for a combined water supply scheme for Nannilam, Mannargudi, Tiruthuraipoondi, Kottur, Tiruvarur and Koradacheri from the Coleroon river at Karugur and Kadambakudi near Kumbakonam;
- A detailed project report will be prepared for laying a 5.6 KM long bypass road in Koothanallur Municipality area, at a cost of Rs.53 crore on State High Way No.202 –Tiruvarur-Mannargudi-Muthupettai road KM 13/0 - KM 17/0;
- A new Village Health Nurse Training School will be started in the District;
- A Blood Bank will be set up at a cost of Rs.20 lakh at the Mannargudi Government Headquarters Hospital;

- An office building will be provided for the Tiruvarur District Home Guards Force at a cost of Rs.38 lakh;

Kancheepuram District;

- An additional building will be constructed for the Maternity and Child Care Ward at the Kancheepuram District Government headquarters hospital at a cost of Rs.20 crore;

Tiruvallur District:

- Quarters will be constructed for the Armed Police Force in the District, Kavarapettai Police Station constables and for 2 additional superintendents of police;

Dindigul District:

- A residence cum camp office will be constructed for the Kodaikanal Sub Division Deputy Superintendent of Police at a cost of Rs.1.23 crore;
- 28 apartments for constables – 25 at Ottanchatram and 3 at Kanniwadi – will be constructed at a cost of Rs.5.05 crore;

Madurai District:

- A bed dam will be constructed across Vaigai river at Madakulam at a cost of Rs.17 crore;
- Construction of a high level bridge across Vaigai river to connect Mannadimangalam and Irumbadi in the District at a cost of Rs.18 crore;
- Under the National Child Welfare Scheme psychiatric consultations will be provided to students;

Theni District:

- A survey for setting up a combined water supply structure for the left out areas of Andipatti and Mayiladumpaarai unions from the lower area of Vaigai dam, will be undertaken;
- A detailed project report will be prepared for creating a 19 KM long road facility at Saakkalathu Medu for farm labour to reach the tea gardens instead of taking a circuitous route of 78 KM via Cumbum Medu;
- A detailed project report will be prepared to create, in the second phase, a 13 KM long road facility in Megamalai and High wavys areas;
- The Maternity and Child Care Ward at the Theni Government Medical College Hospital will be expanded at a cost of Rs.12 crore;
- A camp office cum residence will be constructed for Theni Deputy Superintendent of Police, at a cost of Rs.1.05 crore;

Salem District:

- Necessary medical equipment will be supplied to the Emergency Ward of the Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital;
- A community Hall will be constructed for the police department at Omalur at a cost of Rs.1.96 crore;
- A new building will be constructed for the Thevur Police Station at a cost of Rs.1.01 crore;

- Own building will be constructed for the Athur Prohibition Enforcement Wing office at a cost of Rs.45 lakh;
- A new building will be constructed for the Salem Prohibition Enforcement Wing at a cost of Rs.65 lakh;

Karur District:

- Six Quarters will be constructed – two for Additional Superintendents of Police and 4 for Deputy Superintendents of Police – in Karur District;

Namakkal District:

- A new police unit will be set up for Kumarapalayam Highway patrol duty;

Sivagangai District:

- A survey will be undertaken for sinking new bore wells for augmenting water resources for 12 minor drinking water schemes;
- A new building will be constructed for the Sivagangai all women Police Station at a cost of Rs.70 lakh;

Nilgiris District:

- A three-member committee will be set up to speedily complete the remaining works in the settlement of Gudalur janmam lands under the Gudalur Janmam Land (Abolition and conversion to Ryatwari) Act of 1969; the committee will comprise a senior IAS officer who had worked in the Nilgiris District, a forest officer and a Revenue department officer. Steps will be taken to expedite the work, taking into account the just demands of the locals, particularly the scheduled tribes;
- Additional buildings will be constructed for the maternity and child care ward at the District Government Headquarters Hospital at a cost of Rs. 7 crore;

Coimbatore District:

- Construction of over bridge will be taken up in 2018 – 2019 through the National Highways unit at the 3 important junctions of Singanallur, Ramanathapuram and Sungam on the Trichy thoroughfare in Coimbatore District;
- Construction of a over bridge on the L & T road in Tiruchi road in the District will be taken up in 2018-2019 through the National Highways Unit;
- Construction of an over bridge at the Ooty bound Thudiyalur road junction in the District will be taken up through the National Highways Unit in 2018-2019;
- A detailed project report will be prepared for construction of a bridge near Lawley road for easy access to Marudamalai;
- Construction of over bridge at the junctions of Sai Baba Kovil, Thudiayalur and Narasimhanaickenpalayam will be taken up in 2018-2019 through the National Highways Unit;

Erode District:

- A new traffic Police Station will be set up at Anthiyur;

Tiruppur District:

- In the setting up of a 8.3.KM long Palladam bypass road, a detailed project report will be prepared by the Highways Department in the first phase;
- A 200 bed general ward will be provided at the Udumalpet Government Hospital

at a cost of Rs.6 crore; a new CT scan facility will also be provided at a cost of Rs.1.75 crore;

- Eighty apartments will be constructed for the station constables in the Mangalam Police Station in Palladam sub division at a cost of Rs.11.47 crore;

Tirunelveli District:

- A building will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 96 lakh for the Traffic Police Station at Sankarankovil;
- A building will be constructed for the Tenkasi Traffic Police Station at a cost of Rs.69 lakh;
- A building will be constructed for the Sankarankovil city Police Station at a cost of Rs.1.29 crore;
- 86 apartments for constables - 52 at Maanur and 34 at Oothumalai – will be constructed at a cost of Rs.15.95 crore;

Thoothukudi District:

- The widening and developing of the Kayatharu-Kadambur and Pasuvanthanai-Eppodhum Vendran roads that link NH – 7 and NH – 45 will be taken up in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 under the CRIDP scheme;
- Medical accessories will be provided to the Accident and Emergency Ward in Kovilpatti Government Headquarters Hospital at a cost of Rs.8.95 crore; 31 additional posts – 6 doctors and 25 nurses – will be created for this ward;
- A modern linear accelerator equipment will be installed at the Thoothukudi Government Medical College Hospital at a cost of Rs. 16 crore for treatment of cancer;
- A building will be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.04 crore for the NalattinPuthur Police Station;
- A new building will be constructed for the Thoothukudi Central Police Station at a cost of Rs.1.02 crore;

Kanniyakumari District:

- A detailed survey will be undertaken over the sea erosion works along the coastline of Kanniyakumari District. As an emergency work, a groyne will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 94 lakh to prevent sea erosion in Vallavilai port;

Tiruchirappalli District:

- Needed medical accessories will be supplied to the Tiruchi Medical College Hospital and Manapparai Government hospital;
- An Emergency Ward will be set up for neo-natal babies at the Tiruchi Medical College Hospital. Apartments will be built for Assistant Inspector and 8 constables of the Inamkulathur Police Station at a cost of Rs.1.62 crore;
- A residence cum camp office will be constructed for Jeeyapuram Deputy Superintendent of Police at a cost of Rs.61 lakh;

Tiruvannamalai District:

- A high rise bridge will be constructed across Kamandala Naganadhi at Pudupadi in Irumbedu village, Arani taluk in the District. A detailed project report will be prepared for this work;
- A high rise bridge will be constructed at a cost of Rs.31.50 crore on the Pudupadi-Iluppai - North Iluppai-Perumbakkam-Vishaar- Kancheepuram State Highway 116 A at the point

KM 24/8, Perumbakkam taluk in the District. In the first phase a detailed project report will be prepared for this work;

- Dialysis equipment will be supplied to the Nephrology Ward of the Tiruvannamalai Government Medical College Hospital;
- Necessary medical accessories will be supplied at a cost of Rs.50 lakh to the Emergency Accident Ward of the Cheyyaru District Government Headquarters Hospital;

Villupuram District:

- Widening and up-gradation of 26 km long four highways at an estimete of Rs. 18.64 crore that lead to Melmalayanur Arulmigu Angala Parameswari Amman temple will be taken up in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 under the CRIDP scheme;
- To create necessary facility for treatment of cancer in Villupuram Government Medical College Hospital, the high class Cobalt radiation treatment equipment and its accessories will be supplied at a cost of Rs.5.50 crore;
- A new Traffic Police Station will be set up at a cost of Rs. 83 lakh for prevention of road accidents in Ulundurpet area
- A camp office cum residence will be constructed for Kottakuppam Deputy Superintendent of Police at a cost of Rs.79 lakh;

Chennai District:

- Creches with play schools will be set up at Pudupet and St.Thomas Mount for the children of constables in the Greater Chennai Police Department at a cost of Rs.75 lakh each;
- A new building will be constructed for the D-7 Anna Square Police Station near the memorials of Anna, M.G.R and Amma, at a cost of Rs. 75 lakh;
- A modern Control Centre will be set up at the Headquarters of the Chennai Fire and Rescue Services Department at a cost of Rs. 6 crore;
- A solar power panel will be set up at the Tamil Nadu Police Academy through the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) at a cost of Rs.1.53 crore;
- I am happy to announce that an award - Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Best District and City Award for Reduction of Accidents – will be instituted. It will be given every year to the first three Districts and a city which shows greater involvement in saving precious human lives from accidents;
- To incentivize Police Stations to offer the best service to people, I am happy to state, that a "Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Best Police Station Trophy" will be presented every year to three best Police Stations.

I firmly believe that these announcements will give you satisfaction and benefit the people. While appreciating your excellent work so far, I wish that it should improve further in the coming year.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "We should make Tamil Nadu the numero uno State in India! We will continue to succeed in our journey towards that goal". We will continue to work hard to realize Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's goal.

Nandri! Vanakkam!. ■

Patting Police force for achievements, Chief Minister sets agenda for future

Speech made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Police Officers conference in Chennai on 07.03.2018 *(English Translation)*.

My obeisances to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,

Hon'ble Ministers,

Respected Chief Secretary,

Respected Additional Chief Secretary for Home,

Director General of Police, Higher Officials of Police Department, Police Commissioners and District Superintendents of Police.

At the outset, I extend my welcome to you all for the meeting.

On the first day of the conference we discussed extensively about Law and Order. On the second day, we discussed about development works and Government schemes with the District Collectors. Today, we are going to discuss more extensively about the performance of the Police Department.

Kumaraguruparar has said that those who are committed to complete a task will not mind physical discomfort, hunger, sleep and disrespectful words from others and they will concentrate only on finishing the task.

These lines are a fitting description of the working of the Police force. Yes, the Police force, while performing its duties seldom minds about negative reactions. Unable to spend time with their families, Police Officers work round-the-clock with the sole aim of performing their duties, Just like the Defence personnel who are fighting against our enemies at our borders, the Police force is fighting against anti-social elements within the country.

While mentioning about the Police force, Hon'ble Amma said that the Police should be good friends to law abiding citizens, and a terror to those who violate the rights of others. Police should be like two sides of a coin. They are friends of those who obey the law and enemies to those who violate the law.

Both during Hon'ble Amma's rule and in the present Government following in the footsteps of Amma, the Police force is functioning freely and independently without any interference. That is the reason it is able to function effectively, encountering all challenges.

I extend my warm compliments to the Police for maintaining law and order and for keeping under check the activities of terrorist and extremist groups in the State.

The State continues to remain in the number one position in the Country in recovering stolen properties in the last four years, viz 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

It has been reported that Chennai Metropolitan city is the premier metro and Coimbatore city is the major city in the country where women have complete protection and can live peacefully, for which I congratulate the Police force.

The R.S.Puram Police Station in Coimbatore District has been selected as the best Police Station in the Country for which I compliment the Police.

At the all-India level skill competition and sports meet, held in Chennai recently, teams from Tamil Nadu won many medals and stood first, thereby bringing laurels to the State. My congratulations to the Police for this achievement.

Despite many achievements, the Police forces have to meet newer and newer challenges every day due to continuing changes in society due to economic development, population growth, traffic congestion, social challenges, and impact due to social media.

We have to make sure that there is no place for religious fundamentalism, terrorism and leftist extremist forces in Tamil Nadu.

Road safety is the most important factor in the industrial development of the country and for the safe movement of travelling public. Police should make the best use of patrol vehicles, ambulance, and accident prevention centre to avoid accidents completely.

As illicit liquor is the root cause for many anti-social activities, rooting out illicit liquor will automatically reduce crimes. The Police Officers should therefore take effective steps to eradicate illicit liquor in their respective jurisdictions.

Death in Police custody is a blot on the Police force. People will lose their faith in the Police whenever custodial deaths happen. The Police should take effective steps to prevent custodial deaths.

In view of the increasing use of information technology, the nature of crimes has been changing everyday and newer crimes are raising their heads, especially crimes through computers, and social media. To prevent such crimes and to control them, the Police should equip themselves with the latest technical knowledge.

Special teams should be formed at the District-level to trace out anti-social elements, arrest them, file cases against them and get them convicted. The Police should also arrest anti-social elements under preventive detention act and keep close watch on those released from jail, and create an environment where there are no illegal activities. Stern action should be taken against anti-social elements without partiality.

Instances have been recorded of criminals from northern and neighbouring States making good their escape to their native states after committing crimes in Tamil Nadu. They have local elements also supporting them. The Police should find out the nexus between the local rowdies and the 'visiting' criminals and crack down both of them.

The State should be at the forefront in the Country in providing training to the Police force to face fresh challenges and modernisation. Higher Officials should focus on taking the necessary steps in this regard.

Hon'ble Amma, when she was Chief Minister, issued orders for installing CCTV cameras in all Police Stations as a part of modernizing the Police force in the State. As per Amma's instructions, CCTVs have been installed in most of the Police Stations. CCTVs should be installed in places where they have not been set up so far. The present Amma Government had implemented the measure of sending summons to criminals through SMS messages. The Government is ready to implement more such high-tech facilities.

Information on those who create a law and order situation in the Districts should be collected and sent to higher officials for taking precautionary measures.

To get the goodwill of the people, Police Officers at the Stations should treat the complaints of the public in a sympathetic manner and take immediate action like registering their complaints and taking action against criminals

without any bias. On any account, there should not be any slackening of effort on the part of Police in taking action against the complaints or trying to evade registering the complaints, by citing the jurisdiction of Stations.

Those who come to the Police Station with physical injuries should be given immediate medical assistance. This will definitely boost the image of the Police among the public. I would like to remind you on this occasion that during floods in Chennai and Ockhi storm, the Police force rose to the occasion by involving itself in rescue and rehabilitation of victims even though it was beyond its duties.

Strict action should be taken against those involved in crimes that affect the common men such as smuggling of PDS rice, smuggling of sand, sale of lottery tickets, pirated VCDs and video games.

The Police should co-ordinate with Prison officials in an effective manner in monitoring the movements of criminals in jails as they may indulge in illegal activities in connivance with the people outside.

Reports of idol smuggling have been coming at frequent intervals. Police should concentrate more on this issue, arrest the idol smugglers and recover the stolen idols. The Police should see to it that the idol smugglers get severe punishments.

The SPs in Districts should participate without fail in the law and order review meeting, convened by the respective District Collectors, offer constructive suggestions and take co-ordinate action.

Taking into consideration the welfare of Policemen in the State, Hon'ble Amma's Government following Hon'ble Amma's footsteps has been taking continuous steps for new quarters for police, and new buildings for Police Stations and the Police Department.

The State has been in the forefront in implementing welfare schemes for the Police force, which include 'Own Your House Scheme', subsidized canteens, free full body check-ups, and in providing vehicle facilities. I assure you on this occasion, that this Amma Government is ready to provide all necessary assistance to the Police force.

Though the functioning of the Police force is good by and large, some instances take place here and there, creating an impression that there has been some slackness in the maintenance of law and order. This gives room for fault finders. We have assembled here to hear your suggestions to avoid such instances, and take steps for further improving your services.

I have placed before you the views and the expectations of the State Government. I want you to narrate your own experiences in solving various issues in your respective Districts that will help improve the good works of the Police.

Nandri, Vanakkam.

Chief Minister calls for constructive ideas from participants in all-party meet on Cauvery

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the all-party meeting on the Cauvery issue, held at the Secretariat on 22.02.2018 *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Brother Thiru. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition Thiru. M.K.Stalin, who has honoured Tamil Nadu Government's invitation by his presence, Leaders and Representatives of all parties, Farmers - in the first place, I offer my morning greetings to all of you.

Once again I express my hearty thanks to all of you who have come to this meeting in response to my invitation regarding the Cauvery river water issue. On this occasion, I express my wish that all political parties in Tamil Nadu should remain in one front, despite the many differences amongst them, on important issues like the Cauvery issue and work in unison to establish Tamil Nadu's rights.

The Cauvery river waters issue is not merely the livelihood issue of Cauvery delta farmers but is intertwined with the sensibilities of Tamil Nadu in toto.

We all know the history of the Cauvery litigation. In the interests of farmers, I wish to mention briefly the steps taken by the

Tamil Nadu Government to establish the State's rights on Cauvery waters.

✶ 1983 - The Tamil Nadu Cauvery Farmers' Protection Association, filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court for the constitution of a Tribunal.

✶ 06.07.1986 - Hon'ble Chief Minister M.G.R. wrote a letter to the Central Government for constituting a Tribunal.

✶ 18.11.1986 - Tamil Nadu Government impleaded itself in the case filed by the Tamil Nadu Cauvery Farmers' Protection Association.

✶ 04.05.1990 - The Supreme Court directed the Central Government to constitute a Tribunal.

✶ 04.06.1990 - The Central Government set up the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

✶ July, 1990 - The Governments of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry filed a petition in the Tribunal, requesting an Interim Award.

✶ 25.06.1991 - The Tribunal issued an interim order, directing Karnataka to release 205 tmc ft. of water to Tamil Nadu on monthly/weekly basis every year.

✶ 25.07.1991 - The Karnataka government promulgated an ordinance to nullify the interim order of the Tribunal.

✶ 27.07.1991 - The President sought the Supreme Court's opinion on Karnataka's ordinance.

✶ 22.11.1991 - The Supreme court struck down Karnataka's ordinance and proposed the publication of the Tribunal's interim order in Central Government gazette.

✶ 10.12.1991 - The Tribunal's interim order was published in the Central Government gazette.

✶ 1992 - The Tamil Nadu Government filed an original suit in the Supreme Court, requesting a direction to the Central Government to set up a mechanism for implementing the interim order of the Tribunal.

✶ July 1993 - As the Central Government did not act on the interim order of the Tribunal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu went on a hunger strike to stress the demand.

✶ 11.08.1998 - To implement the interim order, the Union Government issued an order, setting up the Cauvery River Authority and Cauvery Monitoring Committee.

✶ 05.02.2007 - Tribunal delivered its final order.

✶ 19.02.2007 & 15.04.2007 - All Party meetings were held regarding the Tribunal's final order. A decision was taken to file a civil suit in the Supreme Court about the Tribunal's order. In the civil suit, it was decided to plead for the restoration of the irrigated area of Tamil Nadu which was reduced to 24.71 lakh acres from 29 lakh acres and increase the State's water needs by 72 tmc ft. water.

✶ April, May 2007 - The Governments of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu file civil suits in the Supreme court against the final order of the Tribunal; to execute the Tribunal's final order, the Central Government should publish the order in its gazette.

✶ 17.10.2011 & 21.03.2012 - After coming back to power in May 2011, Hon'ble Chief Minister Amma wrote letters to the Central Government to publish in its gazette the final order of the Tribunal.

✶ 17.04.2012 - As the Union Government did not take any action on these letters, Amma's Government filed an interim petition in the Supreme Court.

✶ 04.02.2013 - The Supreme Court directed the Central Government to publish the Tribunal's final order in its gazette before 20.2.2013.

✶ 19.02.2013 - The Union Government published in the gazette the Tribunal's final order. The final order issued by the Tribunal on 5.2.2007 came into force on 19.2.2013 due to persistent efforts of Amma's Government.

✶ 22.02.2013, 11.03.2013 and 17.05.2013 - Letters were written to the Prime Minister to set up immediately the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee as per the recommendation of the Tribunal's final order. To set up these bodies, pressure was mounted continuously.

✶ 18.03.2013 - Amma's Government, meanwhile, filed an interim petition in the Supreme Court to direct the Union Government to set up the Cauvery Management Board

and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee.

✶ 11.11.2013 - Tamil Nadu Government, once again, filed an interim petition in the Supreme Court as the Union Government did not take action on setting up the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee.

✶ 13.06.2014 & 25.04.2015 - Letters were addressed to the Prime Minister in this regard.

✶ 06.06.2014, 07.08.2015, 14.06.2016 and 27.02.2017 - Petitions were presented to the Prime Minister.

✶ 05.12.2014; 27.03.2015 - Resolutions were passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and forwarded to the Prime Minister.

✶ 20.09.2016 - On a plea by the Tamil Nadu Government for the setting up of these bodies, the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to set up the Cauvery Management Board, as recommended in the Tribunal's final order, within 4 weeks.

✶ 30.09.2016 - The Supreme Court reiterated this once again and directed the constitution of these bodies within 4 days.

✶ 03.10.2016 - The Union Government filed a petition in the Supreme Court to alter its orders on the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board. When this petition came up for hearing on 04.10.2016, the Supreme Court stayed the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board.

✶ 19.12.2016; 27.02.2017 - In the memorandum of demands presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the Prime Minister, the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee was stressed.

✶ 09.12.2016 - The Supreme Court admitted the civil suits filed by the states for hearing.

✶ From 11.07.2017 to 20.09.2017 - The Supreme Court heard the final arguments of the states. The Karnataka Government took 9 days to complete its argument, the Kerala Government 2 days, the Tamil Nadu Government 13 days, the Puducherry Government one day and the Union Government one day. The Tamil Nadu Government, in its argument, emphasized the immediate constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Tribunal's final order.

✶ 16.02.2018 - The Supreme Court gave its judgment on the civil suits. In this judgment, it directed the Union Government to set up these bodies within six weeks.

I request the leaders and representatives of all the political parties, farmers' associations and representatives to give briefly their constructive view points on the positive and negative aspects of the present judgment of the Supreme Court. I wish to state that appropriate action will be taken on your constructive ideas after consultations with legal experts.

Chief Minister makes pitch for HAL facility in Salem for making LCA

Address of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** for the meeting organised by Ministry of Defence at Chennai on 18.02.2018

Hon'ble Union Defence Minister,

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity,

Hon'ble Minister for Industries,

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries, Secretary, Department of Defence Production;

Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department;

Secretary, MS&ME Department,

Vice Chiefs of Defence Forces;

Chairman, DRDO;

Heads of Central Defence PSUs;

Office bearers of various Industry Bodies;

Industrialists, Vendors and Delegates;

Friends from Press and Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning to all,

At the outset, I thank Madam Nirmala Sitaraman for her effort in organizing this event in Chennai and I am happy to be part of this function.

As we all know, Tamil Nadu has been maintaining its leadership position in manufacturing sectors like automobiles, textiles, leather, electronic hardware, I.T., etc. This has been made possible due to the strong industrial environment developed over the years and availability of highly skilled human resource, which meets the global standards and is very competitive.

We have more than 70 Engineering Colleges conducting Aerospace courses with an output of more than 5,000 aerospace engineers every year. Our technicians and engineers are employed in large number in aerospace companies across the globe.

The "Vision Tamil Nadu 2023" document unveiled by our late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, lays special emphasis on Aerospace and Defence Sector and Tamil Nadu Government is committed in achieving the same.

There are more than 120 aerospace components manufacturing companies and

more than 700 suppliers to our various Defence PSUs, which are operating in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu having strong automobile capabilities, the next logical step for our auto sector is to progress towards Aerospace & Defence sectors.

The Defence Procurement Policy (DPP) provides for Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to have strategic partnership with Indian Companies. This Policy and manufacturing capabilities of the domestic companies have opened up new vistas in the Aerospace & Defence manufacturing sectors in India in general and Tamil Nadu in particular. This is in tune with the 'Make in India' initiative launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Government of Tamil Nadu is in the process of coming out with an exclusive Aerospace and Defence policy with an objective of achieving 30% share of the sector in India and creating high-end employment opportunities for around one lakh persons in Tamil Nadu.

Development of Chennai Aerospace Park at Sriperumbudur is one such initiative to start with. This Park is being set up in 250 acres in 1st phase which is expandable to 500 acres in the next phase. This Park will house at least 50 aerospace or Defence companies forming a strong base for supporting large OEMs.

The area of Aircraft MRO (Maintenance Repair Overhauling) activities is equally important. Hence, we are focusing on establishing a MRO complex in Chennai, which will emerge as the preferred MRO destination. We welcome and encourage MRO operators to set up their shops in any part of Tamil Nadu.

Our proposed Advanced Computing and Design Engineering Centre (ACDEC) is coming up in 5 lakh sq.ft. at an estimated cost of Rs.180 crore. We are also setting up a multi-floor manufacturing complex in Chennai Aerospace and Defence Park.

Madam, I recall your recent speech in Coimbatore on the MSME sector and fully agree with your views. MSMEs should come forward to take up large projects and programmes from Defence forces, DRDO, ISRO and other Central Defence PSUs. Our State Government will readily support such moves.

In this backdrop, I request Hon'ble Defence Minister to consider establishing a manufacturing facility by HAL for Light Combat Aircrafts and Helicopters in Tamil Nadu in any suitable location. I suggest that HAL may set up their base in Salem which is centrally located and has a large Land Bank. I also request Hon'ble Defence Minister to set up a Military MRO base in Sulur Air force Station in Coimbatore.

Tamil Nadu is one of the States having very large number of Medium and Small Scale Industries in the Country.

Government of Tamil Nadu will assist all possible investors and vendors in getting land, other facilities, supply of power and single window clearance.

The Tamil Nadu Government has recently enacted an Act for ease of doing business in the State.

I once again thank the Hon'ble Union Defence Minister for organizing this grand event in Chennai.

A similar vendor development event can be organized in Coimbatore also. I take this opportunity to welcome you all to invest in Tamil Nadu and I assure all support and assistance on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Thank you!

'We will serve the Tamil cause throughout our lives'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 11.01.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Honb'le Speaker,

The history of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil people's culture are ancient. The first man who came into existence in the world, was in the Tamil-speaking land, said Mozhi Gnaayiru Devaneya Pavanar in his research.

He asserted with authority that Tamil Nadu was extensively spread with fame and prominence from the Venkata Malai in the North to the Kumari in the South.

Mahakavi Bharathiyar, who is an unparalleled Tamil poet of the 20th Century, has said that Tamil Nadu reached the pinnacle of glory by giving Tiruvalluvar to the world and Tamil Nadu where Kamban was born, is the best in education,.

"Our land is Tamil Nadu and we are all Tamil people", asserted Puratchi Kavignar Bharathidasan.

A number of Tamil scholars had proudly claimed this land as Tamil Nadu. Parts of Andhra, Karnataka, and Kerala were part of Tamil Nadu and the area was called Madras Presidency in English and Chennai Makanam in Tamil.

When States Reorganization was done under the Constitution of India in 1956, Thiyagi

Sankaralinganar placed a demand before the then Congress Government that Chennai Makanam should be named as Tamil Nadu.

A resolution was adopted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly changing the name Chennai Makanam as Tamil Nadu after Perarignar Anna formed the Government in the State with a thumping majority in 1967. In continuation of the resolution, the State was named Tamil Nadu on January 14, 1969.

Perarignar Anna, by organizing successfully the Second World Tamil Conference, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. by organising the 5th World Tamil Conference, and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma by holding the 8th World Tamil Conference made known the glory and hoariness of Tamil to the world.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar set up a separate University for Tamil in Thanjavur and formed World Tamil Sangam in Madurai.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on her part added further glory to Tamil by announcing Chithirai 1 as Tamil New Year Day once again.

Tirukkural was translated into widely spoken Chinese, Arabic and Korean languages. Similarly, the works of Poets Bharathiyar, Bharathidasan, and Avvaiyar were translated in Chinese and Arabic to spread the glory of Tamil to the world.

To honour Tamil scholars, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced 55 awards, including the Chief Minister's Computer Tamil Award, Tamil Thai Award, Tamil Chemmal Award, and Amma Literary Award.

To add further fame to Tamil and make known the ancient nature of the language to the world by recording its literature, grammar and culture, the State Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, allotted Rs.10 crore to the Harvard University for setting up a Chair for Tamil.

The coming January 14 is the most significant date for Tamil Nadu as it is on that day, the State enters the golden jubilee (50 years) after it was named 'Tamil Nadu' and the State Government decided to celebrate the day in a fitting manner.

To spread the greatness of Tamil, which is like our eyes, and the reputation of the Tamil people, the State Government has planned to organize sports events, cultural shows, and essay, elocution and poetry contests, in Chennai and other Districts.

Young research students who excel in Tamil Language research will be selected and honoured in Chennai in the valedictory function.

The State Government, following the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, will safeguard the Tamil language and Tamil Nadu as its eyes, as set down by Bharathidasan in his poem, 'Tamilundu, Tamil Makkalundu'.

We will serve the cause of Tamil throughout our lives, asserted the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Tamil and Tirukkural are a class apart, asserts Chief Minister

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Tiruvalluvar Day celebrations and distribution of Tamil Nadu Government Awards function at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai on 16.01.2018 *(English Translation)*.

"Murai Seithu Kappatrum Mannavan Makkatku Erai Endru Vaikkapadum". (The King who performs his duties justly and protects his subjects, will be esteemed as divine).

Tamil protected by Kings!

Tamil nurtured by scholars!

Tamil fostered by the Sangam!

Tamil portrayed in religions!

Earlier there were three types of Tamil known as Iyal, Isai and Nadakam. To this Scientific Tamil has been added as the fourth Tamil.

But today we have the fifth Tamil known as Amma Tamil that reverberates in the mouths of Tamil people, and that is Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who is the presiding deity of our family. I bow to Idaya Deivam Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on this occasion.

I am extremely happy to participate in this august function being held in the name of a Tamil saint and to meet Tamil scholars.

I welcome Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon’ble Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture Archaeology Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Hon’ble Minister for Fisheries & Personnel Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon’ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon’ble Minister for Rural Industries, Thiru .P.Benjamin, Thiru. R.Venkatesan, Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department, who welcomed the gathering, Director of Tamil Development Thiru. G.Vijayaraghavan who is to propose the vote of thanks, Hon’ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Thiru. P.Thangamani, Hon’ble Minister for Social welfare and Nutritious Noon Meal Programme Dr.V.Saroja, Hon’ble Minister for Industries Thiru. M.C.Sampath, Hon’ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr.C. Vijayabaskar, Hon’ble Minister for Labour Dr. Nilofer Kafeel, Hon’ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. P.Balakrishna Reddy, Special Representative to the Government of Tamil Nadu at New Delhi, Thiru. N. Thalavai Sundaram, former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, representatives of Co-operative units, former representatives of local bodies, Government Officials, Tamil scholars, elders, youth, students dance artistes and Tamil scholars, who are recipients of Tamil Nadu Government Awards and

representatives from print and visual media, at the outset I welcome you all.

We call Tamil by various names – Thaentamizh, Santazmizh, Natramizh, Muthamizh, Kappiatamizh, Kannitamizh, and Poontamizh. But there is expression of feeling only when one addresses Tamizh as Thai Tamizh. Unlike calling Mother as Mummy, Annai, and Thai, there is life only in calling Amma as Amma. Because only the word Amma combines in itself, the vowel, (aa), consonant (im) and vowel-consonant (maa). Amma is a Vedic word. That is why it has got such strength.

Before beginning my speech I can say with assurance that only Amma could protect Tamil, the Tamil people and develop the Tamil language.

Every year the second day of the Tamil month Thai is being celebrated as Tiruvalluvar Day. The day is celebrated to commemorate the memory of Saint Tiruvalluvar and to express our sincere thanks to Tiruvalluvar for giving Thirukkural to humanity and showing Tamil's glory to the world.

If the Tamil language is the identity of the Tamil people, Thirukkural is the face of the Tamil people. One should realize that if we respect Tamil, it indirectly means we love and worship our soil, our gods and our parents.

There is no god other than Mother and similarly there is no other language which is better than Tamil. To make people realize this concept Tiruvalluvar Day and other days are being celebrated in memory of great people.

Tamil is a combination of knowledge, culture, bravery, civilization and the qualities of the Tamil people. Our festivals that portray the combination of these five can be tasted like a fruit salad.

What people say reaches us through our ears. Our friends converse with our feelings and God communicates to us through our soul. But books alone can talk to our hearts. The books that create impact and change in our lives are considered the best books and are revered. But Thirukkural is the only book that excels in all these qualities and is respected by all people.

The great poet Bharathiyar, who belongs to the Tamil soil proclaimed that Tamil is the best language among the languages he had known and added that he had not found any language sweeter than Tamil.

Robert Caldwell, who was a foreign national and who researched the Tamil language said that the Tamil language has the capacity to function on its own.

Many foreign scholars such as Robert Caldwell, Veeramamunivar, G.U.Pope and Ellis, brought to light the glory of Tamil throughout the world.

As on date Tamils are living in more than 40 Countries. Tamil associations are functioning in

these countries. Foreign nationals and those in other states who do not know Tamil are learning the Tamil language. But it is regrettable and unfortunate that some people in Tamil Nadu whose mother tongue is Tamil are neglecting the Tamil language because of their fascination for other languages.

This Government, which follows the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has sanctioned Rs.10 crore for a Tamil Chair in Harvard University.

In Singapore and Malaysia, Tamil is recognized as a National language. Tamils who went abroad to earn money and those settled in other nations have not forgotten their Tamil identity and continue to maintain their links with their motherland and Tamil language. This is due to their affinity to the Tamil language.

The first Indian language which was printed is Tamil. Similarly the first language that entered computers is Tamil. Today, through internet many Tamil classics are available throughout the world.

In the course of a day, that is in 24 hours, about three lakh people are reading Tamil Wikipedia. The youth are mainly responsible for the propagation of the Tamil language through internet for which I am indebted and thankful to them.

To this day we worship Tamil savants such as Tiruvalluvar, Kambar, Avvaiyar, Ilango Adigalar, Ottakuthar, Bharathiyar in our hearts, because of their contribution to the Tamil language. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, with the sole intention of spreading the greatness of Tamil throughout the world, especially in nations where Tamils live in large numbers, took steps for translating Thirukkural, Athichudi and poems of Bharathiyar and Bharathidasan in Chinese, Arab and Korean language.

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma felt that only by translating rare books of Tamil in other languages and the celebrated works of other languages into Tamil, the language could be developed further. With this motive, Amma created an award for Translators and gave the same to the 10 best translators every year on Tamil New Year's Day. The present Government, which is treading the path of Hon'ble Amma, is also following the same path.

Everybody knows that the Bhagavad Gita, Bible and Quran have been translated into various other languages. But Thirukkural which is independent of religion is the only classic that has been translated into 100 other languages. So far 140 people have translated Thirukkural in other languages. In English alone 50 people translated Thirukkural. It is due to the fact that Thirukkural alone contains all the good sayings of religious leaders, religious scholars and intellectuals.

Thirukkural is like a lighthouse that shows the path, a light that brightens the world and

a medicine that cures all ills. Though Tamil Thai has many ornaments like Silapadhikaram, Chinthamani, Kundalakesi, Valayapathi and other classics, she has only Thirukkural in her hand to show that she is ruling the world through the scepter that is Thirukkural. There are only a few books like Thirukkural in the world. That is why the British Queen used to read Thirukkural first thing in the morning. Mahatma once said that he wanted to be reborn as a Tamilian at least to read Thirukkural.

The British officer Ellis issued gold coin for Thirukkural. Thirukkural is preserved in a safe in Russia's Kremlin.

The express train from New Delhi to Kanniyakumari is named after Thirukkural. The first two-tier bridge in Tirunelveli is named after Tiruvalluvar.

Thousands of Tamil associations are functioning in different parts of the world to honour Tamil through Thirukkural. The Tamil calendar year is named after Tiruvalluvar.

Thirukkural is taught in the primary class even as it is taken up as a research subject in higher studies.

Thirukkural is the only book that can be read by people of all ages and no other book has got this characteristic. So far, 228 people have written commentary for Thirukkural. Thirukkural is the only work which is glorified by another work known as Tiruvalluva Maalai.

Till date, many research works are being written on the Thirukkural. New ideas and thoughts keep coming up from research in Thirukkural.

Thirukkural is divided into three parts, known as 'Aram, Porul and Inbam'. Instead of writing a book or reading a book, one should live by the book. Only by living according to the concepts of the book, life's vision can be achieved.

Thirukkural explains how an individual should live, how one should conduct his family life and how one should function in society. Similarly it guides a king on how the kingdom should be ruled and how a country should be. Thirukkural serves as guide not only for common individuals but also for kings.

One can make dishes by following a cookery book, one can travel to any part of the world by following a map. Similarly, one can lead a meaningful life by following Thirukkural.

So one should feel proud of being born in Tamil Nadu which gave Saint Tiruvalluvar to the world.

The old proverb is that good things will come with the arrival of Tamil month Thai. Similarly one would get guidance in life by reading Thirukkural. We celebrate Pongal festival on the first day of Thai month. The next day is celebrated as Tiruvalluvar Day. The third day is celebrated as Farmers' Day which signifies

the importance of agriculture as Tiruvalluvar has said that agriculture is the fulcrum of the world and it is around agriculture that the world revolves. That is why the third day of Thai Month is being celebrated as Farmers' Day.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took special interest in the welfare of farmers and scholars. According to Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, while farmers eradicate hungry from society, scholars widen the knowledge of people.

Our Tamil language has 5000 years of history. From the era of Tholkappiyar to the present day, the greatness of Tamil is being protected by scholars of every generation. Tamil poets and scholars always maintained their self-respect and scholarship. Though they sang in praise of Kings and received prizes from them, their hands were always above the prize plate and never below The Scholars lived lives of self-respect and wisdom.

A language will develop in a country where the poets are supported. That is why Perarignar Anna, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma always supported poets. As they considered that the language should be protected like we protect our eyes, they honoured poets with new awards.

Perarignar Anna organized second World Tamil conference, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar the fifth World Tamil conference, and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma the eighth World Tamil conference. They created a renaissance of the Tamil language through these conferences.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar started a University for Tamil in Thanjavur and announced that World Tamil Sangam would be formed in Madurai. Puratchi Thalaivi faithfully implemented it at a cost of Rs.36 crore.

The old-age pension for old Tamil scholars has been increased, and the number of such scholars has also been increased. Elocution, essay and poetry contests are being held every year for school and college students and prizes are given to winners.

Two hundred college students interested in literature are selected every year and are given training through workshops, known as Young Tamils' literature workshops, for developing their language skills.

So far, 55 awards have been given in the name of two great leaders to Tamil scholars who played key roles for developing and protecting the language.

Both Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma rendered yeoman service to the Tamil language and Tamil scholars by implementing various welfare schemes. The present Government without moving away from the principles of these two leaders is rendering the same service to the Tamil language.

The present function is the result of the Government's commitment to the Tamil language. On this joyous Tiruvalluvar Day,

seven Tamil Scholars who have rendered great service to the language, and two social workers who are serving society are to be honoured by the Government.

Thiru. Ko.Periannan, will be given the Tiruvalluvar Award, Tmt. B.Valarmathi, the Thanthai Periyar Award, Dr.Bro. George K.J., the Ambedkar Award, Thiru. A. Subramanian, the Perarignar Anna Award, Thiru. Tha.Ra. Dinakaran, the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Award, Dr.S.Balasubramanian alias Bharathibalan, the Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award, and writer Balakumaran, the Tamil Thendral Thiru.Ru.Vi. Ka Award. I congratulate all the award winners on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government.

During Sangam period as well as in period after Sangam, a creator's work was not easily accepted by the Sangam. A person was accepted as a great poet only after his works were reviewed by Tamil scholars. Only after their approval, the poet was allowed to present his work before the Sangam. I was told that Tiruvalluvar had to surmount many difficulties before presenting Thirukkural to the Sangam scholars.

Tiruvalluvar took along with him Tamil savant Avvaiyar and Idaikattu Siddhar to the Sangam, where he answered the questions and cleared the doubts of Tamil Scholars assembled there. Only after that Thirukkural was accepted unanimously by the Sangam poets.

After the presentation of Thirukkural, Sangam Tamil scholars asked Idaikattu Chittar to sing in praise of Thirukkural in two lines as done by Tiruvalluvar in his Kural. Immediately he surprised everybody by saying that the seven seas were infused into a small grain by Tiruvalluvar. When Tamil Savant Avvaiyar was asked to sing about Thirukkural, she said what can I say when Siddhar has already praised Kural. But she said that she could make a small change in his couplet and replaced small grain with anu (atom). Tiruvalluvar has split an atom and put the seven seas into it.

I wish the award winners a long life and more and more awards during their lifetime.

I would like to say that the country you were born is the best temple, and your language is your god. If you remember these two things in your life then your life will become the tower of principles.

I once again bow Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who is the gift of the earth and lit the lamp in the houses of poor, who is the kindness of mothers and Dharma in another form, who is the Protector of Tamil spread all over the world…I bow to Amma who is the gopuram that stands tall in Tamil Country (boomiyil) and Tiruvalluvar who is the temple of wisdom.

I once again extend my happy Pongal greetings to all of you on this happy occasion.

Nandri, Vanakkam.

Chief Minister plays glowing tributes to Amma at unveiling of portrait in Legislative Assembly

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 12.02.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Prostrations to Goddess Amma. A matchless era in India's political history, a history that induced the world to look at Tamil Nadu intently, a Golden star that exhibited both compassion and iron determination, the 'Thilagam' of the South, a beacon of prinicples who was first among Chief Ministers, the New Age Woman envisioned by Bharathi, India's revolutionary sacrificial fire, politicians' Star of Hope, Governance that is at once compassionate and strict, a Jhansi Rani in courage, a Mother Teresa in love, a Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar in protecting volunteers, a Mangayarkarasi in safeguarding the party, a 'Kaval Deivam' in protecting Tamil Nadu and its people, a Heroic Mother who remains in the hearts of all as a Gem, though no longer in their midst- that Beloved Deity who adorned the Seat of Power in the State six times and won the love and affection of all, was Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. I prostrate before Her once again.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly who declared open in this historic Assembly the portrait of Hon'ble Amma who created history, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha who is participating as a special guest, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly who delivered the welcome address, Hon'ble Whip who is to propose a vote of thanks, the participants in the event, Chief Secretary to Government, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs, Secretary, Legislative Assembly, High officials of the Government, former Ministers, former MPs, MLAs, the intelligentsia and media friends – I offer my respects to all of you.

I consider it as the greatest good fortune of my life to participate in this function organized to declare open a portrait of the 'Sadhanai Thalaivi' who created history. This function has coincided with the successful completion of this Government's first year in office and I feel as if Hon'ble Amma herself has come in person and offers her blessings. This life-like portrait has fully captured Hon'ble Amma's majestic look and her qualities of dignity, command, motherhood, greatness and magnanimity. My hearty congratulations to the painter of this portrait.

A selfless trait is essential to win ever-lasting fame. Hon'ble Amma possessed it. It is said that history is not a compilation of the names of persons who just came and went away but of those who bequeathed and went away. Yes; it is a compilation of personalities who gave welfare schemes, developmental schemes, visionary schemes, got the State its rights and handed them over to the people. It is not the study of history that is more important, it is that we should create history. It is not following the footsteps of others that is important; it is that we should also leave our imprints.

Hon'ble Amma lived up to these ideals. As an artiste and a leader with historic achievements from southern India, she secured a significant place in fine arts as well as the political pages of Indian history. Though she has left the abode of Earth, she remains a golden leader in the hearts of Tamils and there is not even an iota of doubt that Hon'ble Amma's fame will remain as long as the Earth lasts.

In an interview, a grateful Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. said: "It is the people of Tamil Nadu who made me a premier in the film world and in politics". This statement totally fits in to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma also. Hon'ble Amma and the people of Tamil Nadu mutually helped each other's growth. Hon'ble Amma's growth in politics was similar to the phoenix bird that rises anew from the fire.

After joining the AIADMK party, she took measured steps – first as propaganda Secretary and later as a member of Rajya Sabha. After the demise of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., she took up the leadership of the party and became its General Secretary. After successfully passing through several trials and tribulations, she took up the Chief Ministership of Tamil Nadu six times and led the State

effectively on the path of "Peace, Prosperity and Progress", her 'taraka mantra' which has been etched beneath her portrait here.

Without entering into a family life of her own, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma worked tirelessly with the single thought that Tamil Nadu's welfare was that of her own and established several records during her rule.

Winning the 1991 Assembly election, Hon'ble Amma became the sole political heir of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. She made the party win the elections in 2001, 2011 and 2016. By winning 37 of the 39 constituencies in the 2014 Parliament election, she made the AIADMK party, the third biggest party in the Lok Sabha. This is a historic achievement. In tune with Valluvar's couplet "Murai seithu kaappaatrum mannavan – makkatku erai endru vaikkapadum" (The king who guards the realm and maintains justice shall be revered as a god), Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, in her golden rule, formulated and implemented countless magnificent model schemes for the poor and as a result lives even today in people's hearts as God.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. first made Hon'ble Amma a member of Rajya Sabha and later elevated her as the Deputy Leader of AIADMK in the Rajya Sabha. The seat allotted to Perarignar Anna in the Rajya Sabha was allotted to Hon'ble Amma. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's speeches in the Rajya Sabha drew the attention of politicians across the Country.

It was Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who stated: "Projects are for the sake of people; people are not there for the sake of projects". As a pioneering scheme for the whole world, Hon'ble Amma set up 'All Women Police Stations' to eradicate cruelty to women, to protect their rights and bring about a change in their psyche so as to make them live up to Bharati's poetic lines - "Nimirndha nannadai, naerkonda paarvaiyum, nilathil yaarkkum anjaadha nerigalum" ('An erect gait, a straight-forward gaze and values that never shrink in fear before anyone'). Besides, Hon'ble Amma amended the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act to make the punishment severe for criminals. Because of this Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble M.G.R. and Amma, Tamil Nadu remains a Garden of Peace.

Like Annal Ambedkar, Hon'ble Amma dedicated her life to the cause of all sections of people inclusive of scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, most backward and backward class people and minorities. Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modi applauded Hon'ble Amma, when he came to pay his last respects to her, thus: "The death of Hon'ble Amma has created a great void in the political history of India; Hon'ble Amma's contacts with the people, her care for the poor, the marginalized, women and the oppressed people will encourage others for ever".

Through consistent efforts and litigation in courts, she got the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal published in the Central Government gazette. This is a historic achievement of 'Kaaviya Thaai' who retrieved Cauvery.

Likewise, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma went up to Supreme Court on the Mullai Periyar Dam issue and got orders for storing water in the dam up to a height of 142 feet.

With a visionary outlook, she introduced the rain water harvesting scheme for improving the ground water level and issued orders for mandatory installation of rain water harvesting structures in the construction of houses and buildings. The whole world lauded the great

rise in the ground water table even in the drought periods.

"I consider it my sacred duty to honour the promises I made to those who voted for me. I have never slipped in fulfilling the expectations of the poor and marginalized people", said Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. To translate her words into action, Hon'ble Amma implemented the scheme of issuing rice at no cost to family card holders every month.

"Nationalism and Spirituality are my two eyes", declared Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar. Hon'ble Amma stuck to this golden saying all through her life. Everyone knows Hon'ble Amma's services in the field of Divinity. Annadhana scheme in temples, free rice to mosques in the Ramalan month, subsidy for all religious sects to undertake pilgrimage to their respective holy places ……. – the list can go on to indicate Hon'ble Amma's Divine Services.

Hon'ble Amma imbibed the quality of patriotism even from a very young age. She was the reverential Mother who donated her jewellery to the then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1965 during the Indo-Pakistan war. In this connection, I wish to draw your attention to a debate that took place in this very House.

A member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, elected on Tamil Maanila Congress party ticket, later crossed over to the AIADMK party. While speaking on the debate for allocation of funds in 2005, the member attacked the Central Government for not allotting funds to the State and uttered a word that would impair the unity of the country. Congress members immediately rose in protest and insisted that the speech should not go on record. Replying, Hon'ble Amma said: "As far as the AIADMK is concerned, we don't believe in secession. We will always safeguard the unity of the nation". She went a step further and requested the Speaker to expunge the remarks made by that Hon'ble member.

I am mentioning this because the Congress party was ruling at the Centre in 2005 and the DMK was part of that Government. Still, when the issue of the Country's unity and patriotism came up, Hon'ble Amma raised her supportive voice.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave many schemes for the people of Tamil Nadu and toiled day and night for their welfare. Those schemes include rice at no cost to all, Amma Restaurants to remove the hunger of the poor, Farm fresh consumer shops, Amma drinking water and Amma pharmacies, pension for senior citizens and widows, limited free supply of electricity to weavers to operate looms and to domestic consumers, marriage assistance up to Rs.50,000/- and 8 grams of gold for 'Thaali' to poor women, free distribution of mixie, grinder and fan, distribution of cows and goats to rural poor, Chief Minister insurance scheme and Uzhavar Paadhugappu Thittam.

In the field of education, 14 types of educational aids were given free of cost to students and many schemes like free distribution of laptops and free bus pass, upgrading the standards of schools and the starting of many Government Arts and Science Colleges, Engineering Colleges and Polytechnic Colleges to help students get higher education at low cost were implemented. I wish to proudly point out that this Government is implementing all these welfare schemes following Hon'ble Amma's path without deviating even a bit. Through a parable, I wish to inform how important God's Grace is.

In the city of Kanthapuram, there were persons – one believed only in the power of

the King and the other was a devotee who had faith in the grace of God. The former used to say: "Due to the presence of the King, there is prosperity everywhere. Nothing will move if the King is not there". On the other hand, God's devotee used to say: "Everything happens due to God's grace. If He is not there, nothing will move". Often they used to spar on the issue of 'King's rule or God's rule'. The King who came in disguise, noticed the two. He took a white pumpkin, made a hole in it, dropped some gold coins and diamonds into it and closed the hole, leaving no trace of it. He presented the pumpkin to the loyalist. Disappointed at the small presentation, the loyalist sold it to a shop.

The devotee who passed by that street, saw the pumpkin, purchased it for two rupees and asked it to be sliced for being served in the annadhanam for the devotees of Lord Siva. The devotee was wonder struck at the 20 gold coins and diamonds that rolled out of the pumpkin when it was cut into pieces. As he did not know the owner of these articles, he went to the King to complain.

At that time, the King also summoned his 'loyalist' and asked him what he did with the golden pumpkin. "A common pumpkin! I sold it for one rupee", he replied. The King kept quiet.

The devotee narrated his experience and placed the gold coins and the diamonds before the King. "Keep it to yourself; God's Grace is mighty", the King said and surprised the devotee.

The King's loyalist was non-plussed. "I am not the ruler of this country; God rules", the King said and dispatched the two after feeding them.

Yes, the deity, Hon'ble Amma is ruling Tamil Nadu by guiding us.

I recall a moving statement made by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in a speech. "I bear all your agonies. I don't have a private life of my own. I don't have relatives. I have eschewed selfishness altogether. You are everything to me. My home and my heart is only Tamil Nadu".

For the future generation's knowledge of the glory of such a magnificent leader and her history of achievements, this Government is taking steps to transform her residence – Veda Nilayam – into a memorial and to construct a huge memorial to Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who is taking her final rest along the shores of the Bay of Bengal.

Hon'ble Amma told this very House that AIADMK would function only for the people irrespective of the centuries that roll by.

She was a 'Maha Sakthi', beyond the prowess of humans who left the world after making it realize that the word Amma meant Achievement, History and an Epoch. I once again humbly prostrate at the feet of that wonderful 'Sakthi' that went by the name 'Amma' and still remains as the life-energy of one-and-a-half crore volunteers and the pulsating heart beat of Tamils all over the world.

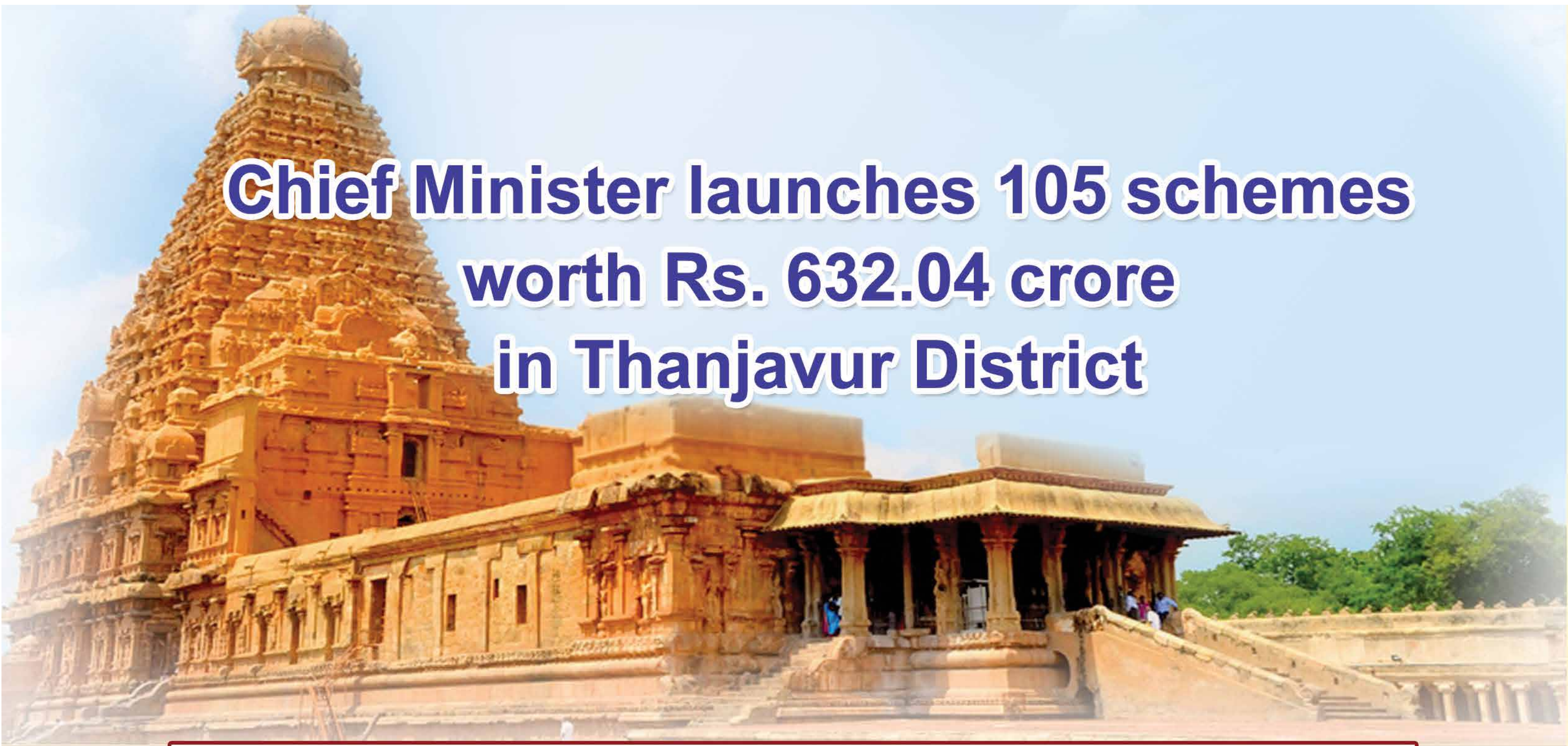
I once again offer my hearty thanks to Hon'ble Speaker of the Assembly for the conduct of this function in such an excellent manner.

I take leave, saying Anna Naamam Vazhga! Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Naamam Vazhga! Ammavin Pugazh Onguga!

Nandri; Vanakkam.

■

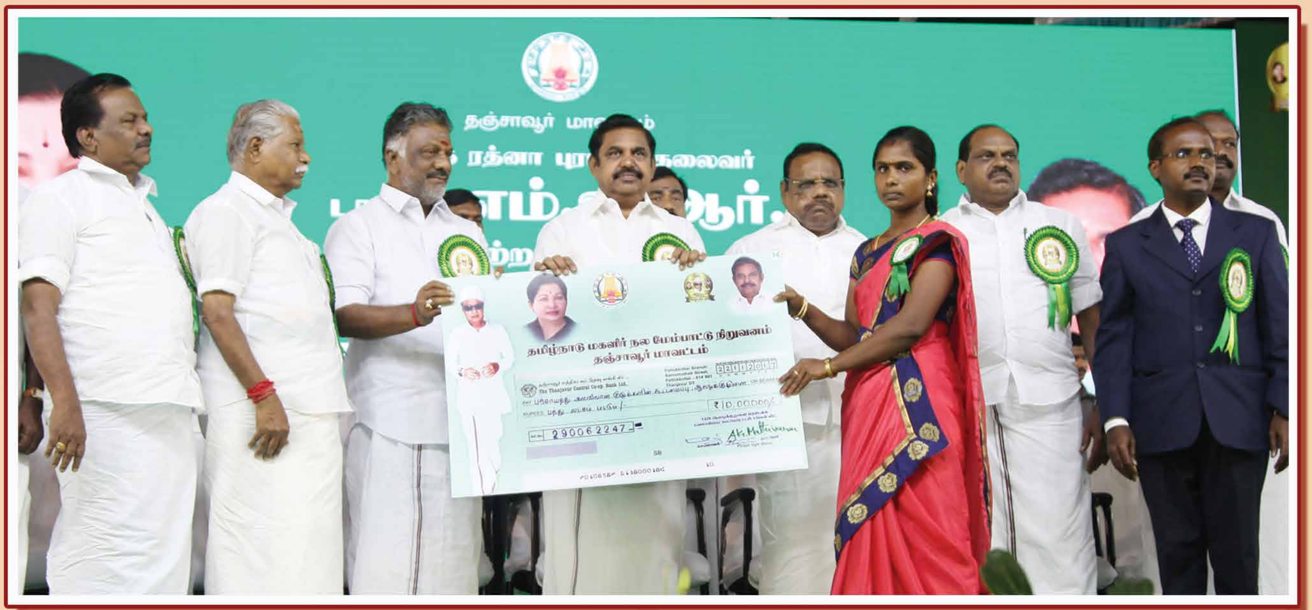
Chief Minister launches 105 schemes worth Rs. 632.04 crore in Thanjavur District



Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the M.G.R Centenary celebrations held at Thanjavur on 29.11.2017 *(English Translation)*.

The artistic gift of the Cauvery and the full moon that retrieved the rights of the Cauvery through her intellect, the triune Tamil that was crowned through Mullaiperiyar, the unparalleled leader of Tamil Nadu, the lifeline of one-and-a-half crore party volunteers, Ponmanaselvi Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I bow to you.

Hon'ble Speaker of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. P.Dhanapal, who has delivered the presidential address at the centenary



celebrations of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, who gave a spirited address and sang paeans to Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi in his address, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, who gave a special address, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. R.Doraikannu, who is the son of the soil of this District, Hon'ble Member of the Rajya Sabha Thiru. R.Vaithilingam, Hon'ble Ministers, Thanjavur MP Thiru. K.Parasuraman, Mayiladuthurai MP Thiru. R.K.Bharathi Mohan, Pattukottai MLA Thiru. C.V.Sekar, Peravurani MLA Thiru. M.Govindarasu, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Thiru. Pollachi V. Jayaraman, Chief Government Whip Thiru.S.Rajendran, Special Representative of the Tamil Nadu Government in New Delhi Thiru. N.Thalavai Sundaram, Tamil Nadu Housing Board Chairman Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Textbook Society and Educational Services Tmt.B.Valarmathi, Thanjavur District Collector Thiru. A.Annadurai, who is to propose the vote of thanks, former Ministers, who have come here to grace the function, former MPs, MLAs, representatives of co-operative bodies, former representatives of local bodies, volunteers, who are the aerial roots of the party, Government employees, respectful elders, ladies, youth, beneficiaries of various welfare scheme, friends from the print and visual media, at the outset I offer my humble welcome to you all.

To explain about Thanjavur in a nutshell, it is the granary of Tamil Nadu as well as literary storehouse of Tamil. Both paddy and literature are available in abundance here.

It is a divine land as it combines art, literature and agriculture. It is also called land of food and Kuberan's Alakapuri. It is considered the star on the face of Mother Tamil.

This area was originally called Dhananjaya Oor named after the King Dhananjaya Mutharaiyar, who ruled the area during the eighth century. Later it became Thanjavur. It was ruled by Cholas, Pandyas, Marathas, and Britishers.

But it was during the period of Rajaraja Chola that it attained glory in arts, literature and agriculture.

The world renowned Thanjavur Temple was constructed by Rajaraja Cholan. One is led to think that due to his love for the Tamil language, the King set up the vimanam of the temple tower at the height of 216 feet, which is the total number of cominant letters in Tamil. The height of Nandi in the temple is 13 feet, which is the total number of vowels in Tamil, including the alphabet Aayutha. The temple tower has been constructed with technical skill as to withstand lightning, thunder and earth tremors. That is why the temple stands tall even after 1007 years like Rajaraja Chola.

Every Tamilian should feel proud of Rajaraja Chola, as he constructed the temple with one lakh thirty thousand tonnes of granite stone at a place where there are no hills or hillocks. When the construction work was going on, a cowherd woman called Azhagi distributed buttermilk to workers engaged in construction. To honour the woman for her service to Lord Shiva, the king installed her statue of 80 feet height on the Main Tower of the temple with her name inscribed. That statue is known as Idaichi stone till date. It has been so located that the stone's shadow falls on God Brihadeeswarar.

The museum, art centre, Chandra Mouleeswara Temple, Sadar Mahal palace, darbar hall, Saraswathi Mahal library which are in the 100 acre big fort palace got up by Vijaya Raghava Naicker are standing examples of Tamil architectural skill.

Thanjavur excels other Towns in the State in having more number of tourist spots such as Grand Anaicut constructed by Karikala Chola, Rajarajan Mani Mandapam, Manora Tower, Sivaganga Garden and Schwartz Church.

Thanjavur District with Darasuram Temple, Thirubuvanam Sarabeswarar Temple, Tiruvidaimaruthur Temple, Swamimalai, one of the six abodes of Lord Muruga, Kumbakonam Ramaswami Temple, Uppuliappan Temple, Punnainallur Mariamman Temple, Thittai Guru Temple, Poondi Matha Temple and Pandaravadai Big Mosque, is considered a spiritual place.

Swamimalai sculptures, Thirubuvanam Silk Sarees, Thanjavur Veena, Thanjavur paintings, Thanjavur Art plate, Thanjavur bobble head doll, Nachiarkoil Kuthuvilakku and Thanjavur betel leaf, are some of the identities of Thanjavur.

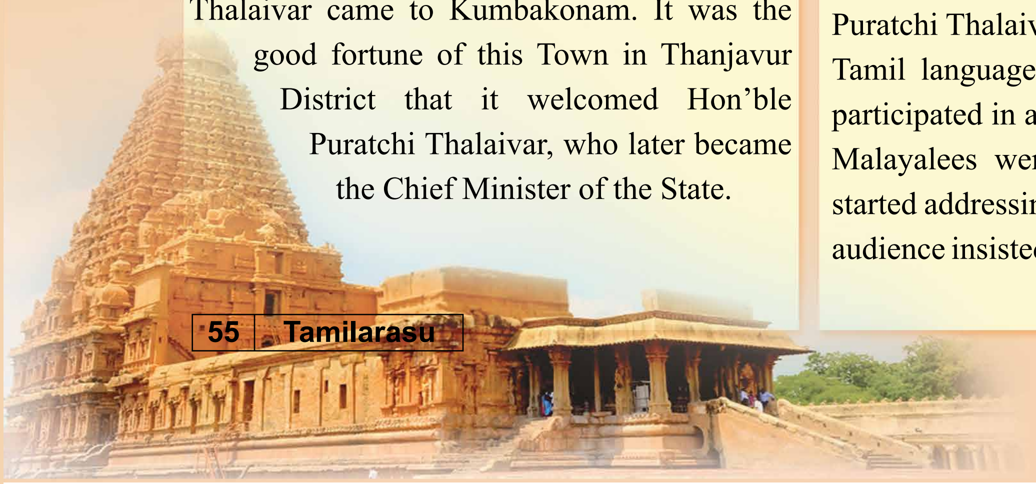
Even 2,000 years ago, Karikala Cholan constructed Grand Anaicut across River Cauvery, Raghunatha Naicker renovated many temples in the District, King Serfoji – II made

known the art, isai and dance of Thanjavur throughout the world.

Economic genius J.C.Kumarappa, who was an assistant to Mahatma Gandhiji, freedom fighter Sir. Sivaswami Iyer, mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujam, Ulaganatha Pillai, who wrote the history of Karikala Cholan, Srinivasam Pillai who wrote the history of Tamil, Sri Thyagaraja who was one of the Carnatic Music Trinity, Pattukottai Alagiri, Pattukottai Kalyanasundaram and Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan were all born in the District.

There have been many fitting reasons for holding Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's Centenary celebrations in various Districts. But celebrating in Thanjavur District has a special reason.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was born as the fifth child of Annai Sathya and Thiru. Gopala Menon at Kandy in Sri Lanka. Grief struck the family after the sudden demise of father Gopala Menon. The family suffered due to poverty. To add to their miseries, two daughters and one son in the family also died in Kandy. With the remaining two male children including Ramachandran, the mother did not know where to go in the world for making a living. At that time, the Town Kumbakonam in Thanjavur District came to her mind. It was divine wish for the mother to select Kumbakonam. It is our past good deeds that Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar came to Kumbakonam. It was the good fortune of this Town in Thanjavur District that it welcomed Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, who later became the Chief Minister of the State.



Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, who studied in Yanaiyadi school up to third standard was forced to withdraw from the school and join the drama company to earn for his family. According to Avvaiyar, poverty is terrible especially during young age. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. began his life at Kumbakonam where he suffered due to poverty. It is really a fitting tribute to him to organize a function at this place where M.G.R. began his life. It is function fraught with emotion.

If the school children in Tamil Nadu are taking nutritious meals today, it is the reflection of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's bitter experience in his earlier years. His early sufferings due to hunger made him take a vow that no children should go hungry. So people of Thanjavur District could take credit for the noon meal scheme.

Like his mother, who selected Kumbakonam for living with her children, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, immediately after coming to power thought of starting Tamil University and Thanjavur was the first Town that came to his mind for locating the University.

Rajaraja Cholan brought fame to Thanjavur by constructing the Thanjavur Big Temple. Similarly, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar brought glory to Thanjavur by setting up the Tamil University.

I would like to mention an incident to show the affection and love of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar towards Tamil Nadu and the Tamil language. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar participated in a meeting in Kerala, where only Malayalees were present. Puratchi Thalaivar started addressing the meeting in Tamil. But the audience insisted on his speaking in Malayalam.

But Puratchi Thalaivar was firm in speaking in Tamil and justified his action by saying that though he and his family were natives of Kerala, it was Tamil Nadu that gave life and livelihood to the family. Saying so, he spoke only in Tamil at the meeting.

To realize the dream of Mahakavi Bharathi, who said that works of other languages should be translated into Tamil, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. took steps to translate many works of other languages in Tamil. It was Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. who implemented Thanthai Periyar's script reforms.

Puratchi Thalaivar, who showed his love for the motherland in his films through film dialogues and songs, also made known the greatness of Tamil Language.

In the film 'Kalangarai Vilakkam', he used the song 'Sange Muzhangu'. In the film 'Nan Anaiyittal', he sang 'Thai Mel Aanai, Tamil Mel Aanai, Kurudargal Kannai Thirandhu Vaipaen'. In the film 'Madurai Veeran' he sang 'Sentamizha Ezhendu Vaarayo, Un Singara Tamizh Mozhiyai Parayo'. In the film 'Nam Nadu', Puratchi Thalaivar stressed the importance of one's language in the song 'Vizhipola Enni Nam Mozhi Kakka Vendum'. In his last film, 'Madurai Meeta Sundara Pandiyan' through the song 'Engal Sandana Tamizhukku Veredhu Veedu' he made known the greatness of the Tamil throughout the world. Through songs and scenes, Puratchi Thalaivar exhibited his affection for the Tamil language.

His affinity for the Tamil learning did not come all of a sudden. Right from 1945, he had been collecting books for his library known as Gandhi Library. Puratchi Thalaivar purchased all new books whenever they were released and kept them in his library after reading them.

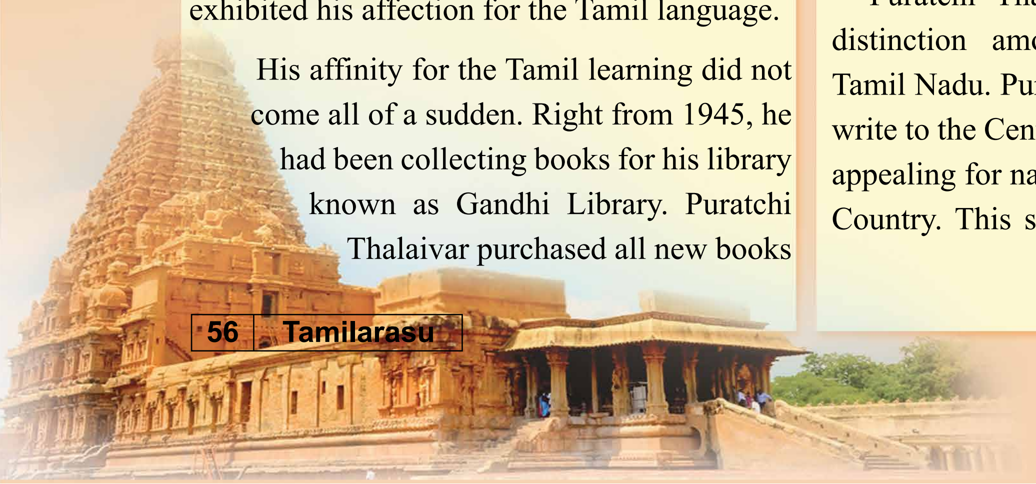
Today some people are boasting that the Tamil language has been developed of them and it is they who are responsible for its growth. But the fact is that they utilized Tamil for their own welfare and they never took steps for the development of Tamil. They used Tamil as a weapon but did not respect Tamil as their life and soul. On the other hand, Puratchi Thalaivar did everything for the Tamil language during his rule which Perarignar Anna wanted to do.

People tried to conceal things done by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi for the Tamil language. But they did not succeed. When Puratchi Thalaivar named the ship purchased at a cost of Rs.32 crore for Poompuhar Shipping Corporation from Japan as 'Tamil Anna', all people in Tamil Nadu heartily welcomed his move.

During Puratchi Thalaivar's rule, Kavignar Pulamaipithan, Kaviarasar Kannadasan and Kavignar Muthulingam, were made Government poets.

In an interview to AIR in 1982, Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar said that one of the legs of the Chief Minister's chair was made of Pattukottai Kalyanasundaram's songs. Pattukottai Kalyanasundaram, who belonged to Thanjavur District, had found a place in the heart of Puratchi Thalaivar.

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. has a special distinction among the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu. Puratchi Thalaivar was the first to write to the Central Government on 26.04.1982 appealing for nationalization of all rivers in the Country. This showed that Puratchi Thalaivar



had a long-term perspective for a solution to the Delta farmers, who depend on the Cauvery for their irrigation.

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. highlighted the sufferings of farmers and workers through his films. In many of his films he acted either as labourer or as farmer.

By quoting a dialogue of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. in the film Urimai Kural, I could explain his love for the soil. In the dialogue he said, the mother nurtured me by giving milk and the mother earth nurtured me through food. This showed how he connected to the land that supported him.

The present Government, which is following the guidance of Puratchi Thalaivar way will always protect farmers and will not allow any schemes that will jeopardize their interests.

Puratchi Thalaivar not only showed his concern for farmers in the songs but took action to relieve their sufferings. Immediately after taking over the reins of the Tamil Nadu Government, he waived the agricultural loan of farmers to the tune of Rs. 330 crore. Not only that, he gave power connection to 3.30 agricultural pump sets when power availability was less than the requirement. He also introduced crop insurance scheme. He launched one lamp for one hut scheme to the poor people, to ensure that all huts in the State had power connection.

Nobody can forget Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who successfully administered the State after Puratchi Thalaivar, and envisaged a number of schemes for the welfare of farmers.

After coming to power, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma underwent fast for 84 hours for the Delta farmers and turned the world attention towards the delta farmers. Only after that the Cauvery issue started moving towards a solution. Nobody can deny it.

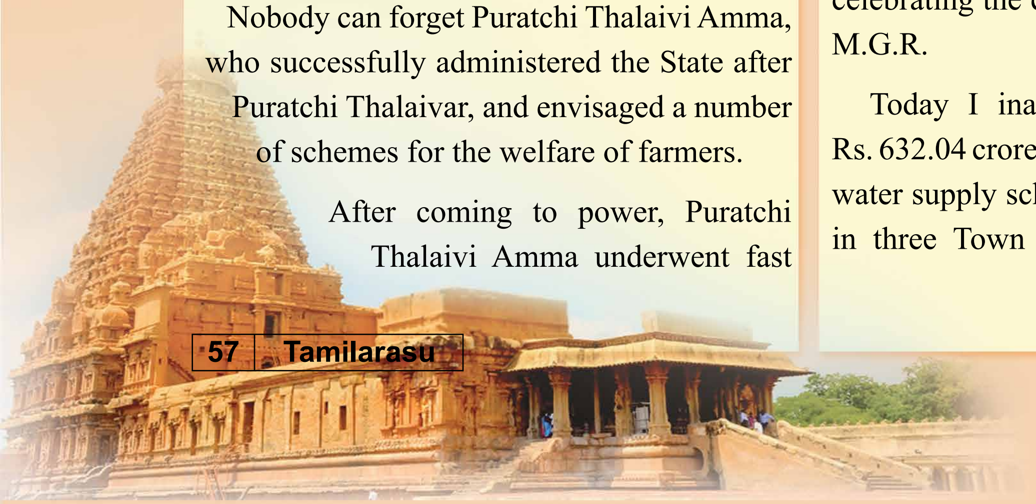
Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma continued to seek justice for Delta farmers through the Supreme Court. Her quest resulted in publishing the Final Award of the Cauvery Tribunal in the Central Government gazette on 19.02.2013. But still the Karnataka Government refuses to release water in the Cauvery. Demanding the just share of Tamil Nadu of the Cauvery waters, the present Government has been engaging in a legal war. I am confident that the State will soon get a favourable judgement.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had brought many schemes for the Thanjavur District. Thanjavur Town was allotted Rs.700 crore for improving the amenities of the Town. The Town was expanded during Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's period. During Amma' s rule, she took special interest in Thanjavur District by opening a Veterinary College and a Research Centre in Orathanadu, buildings for Arts and Science Colleges, and Engineering College.

We, the followers of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, have brought many schemes in connection with the centenary celebration of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

We like to answer the critics through these schemes who question the necessity for celebrating the centenary of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Today I inaugurated 105 schemes worth Rs. 632.04 crore, including a combined drinking water supply scheme for 1,153 rural tenements in three Town Panchayats, and 9 Panchayat



Unions with Coleroon river as source at a cost of Rs. 495.70 crore.

I laid the foundation stone for 43 schemes costing Rs.186.77 crore including renovation and modernization of Manniyaru from 73/150 km to 12/500 km at a cost of Rs. 46.72 crore.

I am going to distribute welfare measures worth Rs. 271.90 crore on behalf of various departments to 40,101 beneficiaries.

The Government so far inaugurated 35,886 schemes, worth Rs.14,508. 93 crore. Foundation stones have been laid for 7,130 works at a cost of Rs.4,884 crore. About 43,000 works worth Rs. 19,393 crore are in various stages of implementation.

I like to mention some of the schemes which have been implemented in Thanjavur District by this Government in the last six years. The opposition parties are asking what the Government has done for the people. To reply to their charges, I like to mention some of the schemes brought out by this Government.

Co-operative banks have waived farm loans of the marginal and small farmers to the tune of Rs. 233 crore benefiting 51,000 farmers. Drought relief of Rs.108 crore has been distributed to 93,000 farmers whose yield has been affected.

Under the marriage assistance scheme, 11,780 beneficiaries received Rs. 47 crore and 49 kg of gold.

Under the farmers protection scheme, about Rs.324 crore has been distributed and about 13 lakh farmers have been benefitted.

About 2 lakh laptops, worth Rs.249 crore, have been distributed to students at no cost under the 'Laptop for students' scheme.

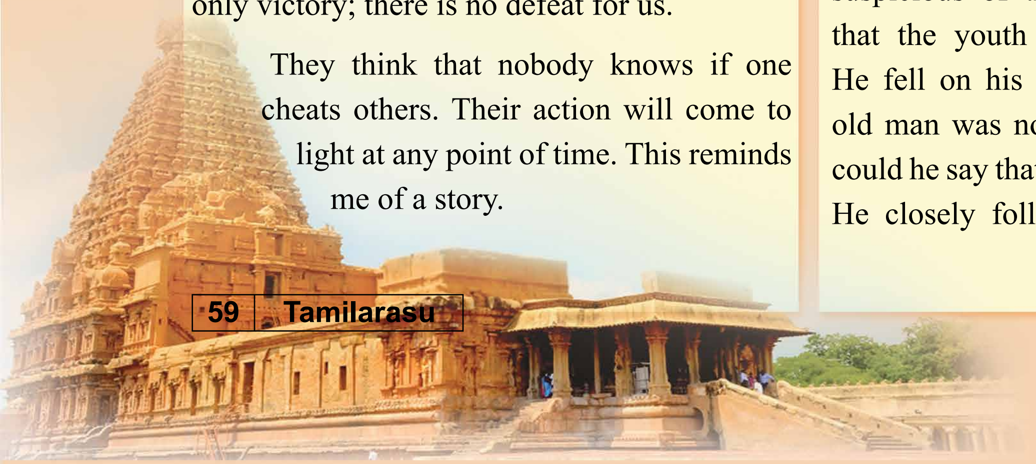
About 41 lakh cubic ft. of sediment, de-silted from 1,202 lakes, tanks, rivers and channels has been made over to 15,000 farmers at no cost. Under the 'Kudimaramathu' 119 schemes have been taken at a cost of Rs. 8 crore. For the 29,359 self-help groups, bank loan to the tune of Rs.712.94 crore has been given. About Rs.240 crore has been allotted for distributing to 96,000 farmers as crop insurance under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme.

Under the Green House Scheme, 13,842 houses have been distributed at a cost of Rs.233.65 crore. Under the Prime Minister Housing Scheme, 25,030 houses worth

Rs.337.34 crore have been distributed. Under the Integrated School Infrastructure Development Scheme, about 2,22,000 works have been taken and for this Rs.1,700 crore has been spent. On behalf of the Higher Education Department, a Government Multi-purpose Technical College has been declared open. A Government engineering college was opened in Sengipatti in Budalur division. Fourteen sub-stations have been set up at a cost of Rs.68.92 crore by the Tamil Nadu Power Production and Distribution Corporation. Highways Department, NABARD, Village Road Scheme, 19 bridges have been constructed at a cost of Rs.52.63 crore. A by-pass road has been set up for Thanjavur Town for a length of 14.26 km at a cost of Rs.94 crore. Through Highways Department, over-bridges have been constructed at various places, totally costing Rs.150.92 crore. At Mallipattinam fishing Village in Peravurani Constituency in the District, port development work has been taken under the Disaster Mitigation Scheme, at a cost of Rs.60 crore. The work is expected to be completed by October 2018.

It has been the habit of some people to comment on us while we are working for the people day in day out. They could not tolerate to see both the party volunteers and Ministers working together. They are making all-out efforts to remove this Government. But that will not happen. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is guiding us as God. For us there is only victory; there is no defeat for us.

They think that nobody knows if one cheats others. Their action will come to light at any point of time. This reminds me of a story.



In a busy traffic-congested road, a youth carrying egg trays was cycling along. Suddenly he lost balance due to heavy traffic on the road and fell down. All the eggs he was carrying were broken to pieces. He started crying saying that he was getting very poor wages and he would be deprived of that too by his employer if he came to know of the loss of eggs. As usual, a crowd gathered around him and pitied him for the loss of eggs. While one remarked what the poor youth would do to meet his house rent, another asked what he would do for food. Everybody felt sorry for the youth. But no one came forward to help. At that time an old man from the crowd saw the weeping youth, the crowd and the broken eggs. He immediately made a suggestion. He parked the cycle on the road-side and removed the broken eggs. He made the following appeal to those in the crowd.

"This youth lost all his eggs in the accident. His employer is a harsh man. He will punish the youth for the loss of eggs and for causing damage to the cycle. So let us help the poor youth by collecting money and compensate his loss''.

People in the crowd were moved by the old man's appeal and donated money for the youth. Soon a substantial amount was collected and he gave the collected money to the youth asking him to hand over the money to his employer.

But one person in the crowd became suspicious of the old man's action. He saw that the youth was not hit by any vehicle. He fell on his own. When he fell down, the old man was not at the scene at all. But how could he say that the youth was hit by a vehicle. He closely followed the youth, who handed

over the collected money to his employer. The man who followed the youth was shocked to find that the old man who collected the money was none other than the employer himself!

He overheard their conversation from which he came to know that the whole incident was a drama enacted by the employer, who was none other than the father of the youth!

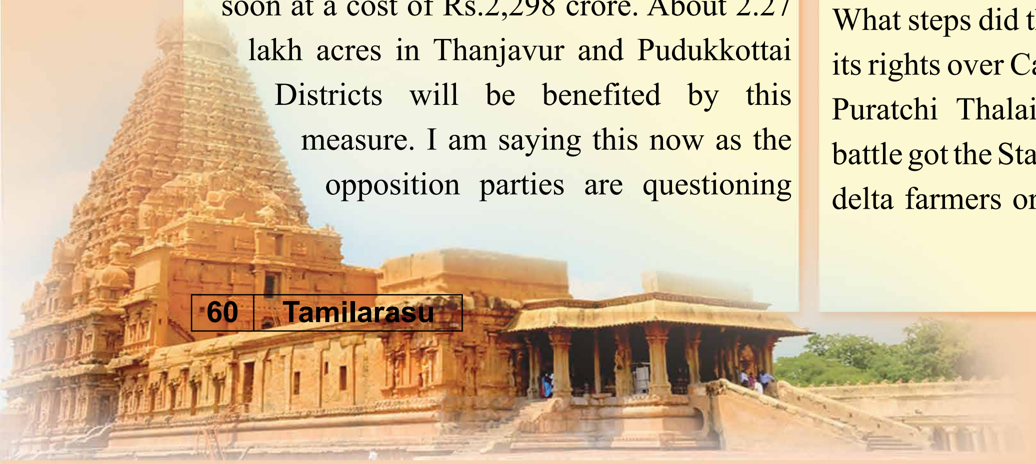
He had handed over rotten eggs to his son and asked him to fall down in the busy road. As if he was an outsider, he had pretended to come to the rescue of the youth and collected money from the crowd.

The father told the son how cleverly he turned the whole incident into an accident and collected Rs.1500/- from the people. He proudly claimed that they realized the money for rotten eggs. The man who overheard the conversation was astonished by the cheating of the father and son and swooned. I hope you know who the father and son in this story are.

In the golden rule of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government, we have been implementing many welfare schemes. Twenty-six schemes have been undertaken at a cost of Rs.103 crore under the irrigation and land development programme. As a result of the scheme, irrigation channels are being repaired and tanks and kammais are de-silted. Through these measures, water sources are preserved, resulting in increase in their carrying capacity. Similarly, Grand Anaicut Canal is to be renovated and expanded soon at a cost of Rs.2,298 crore. About 2.27 lakh acres in Thanjavur and Pudukkottai Districts will be benefited by this measure. I am saying this now as the opposition parties are questioning what the Government had done for the farmers. As mentioned by me earlier, the Government has been implementing many welfare schemes for the welfare of farmers.

As mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister of your District Thiru. Doraikannu, water is very essential for agriculture operations. To improve the availability of water, all the tanks, and ponds are being de-silted and the sediment from these water bodies are being given to farmers free of cost. So far, the scheme has been implemented in 2,519 tanks in the State at a cost of Rs.100 crore. Due to this, all the tanks, ponds and other water bodies are deepened and their capacity has increased. The sediment of these water bodies is distributed to the farmers at no cost. Amma's Government has given this wonderful scheme to the farmers. Similarly the farmers are provided drought relief, when they are affected by drought, and compensation through crop insurance when their standing crops are affected by drought. Like these, the Government has been implementing many schemes for the farmers.

The DMK was in power for 14 years. What did they do for the District? They could have forced the Centre to form Cauvery Management Board if they were interested in the welfare of the farmers. They had the opportunity. But they failed to make use of the opportunity. They were interested in their own welfare. They did not think about the welfare of the people. The River Cauvery is the District's lifeline. What steps did they take for getting Tamil Nadu its rights over Cauvery water? It is only Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who through legal battle got the State's right over Cauvery. For this, delta farmers organized a felicitation function.



At the felicitation function, Hon'ble Amma proudly claimed that she was also a farmer. I am also a farmer. Respected Deputy Chief Minister is also a farmer. The Rajya Member Thiru. Vaithilingam and the District Minister Thiru. Doraikannu are also farmers. When Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was ruling the State, she appointed Thiru. Vaithilingam, belonging to the District as Agriculture Minister. Then she nominated Thiru. Doraikannu as Agriculture Minister. Puratchi Thalaivi gave agriculture portfolio to people of this District to make the District prosperous. When Thiru. Vaithilingam was the Agriculture Minister the State recorded the highest foodgrain production and the State won the Centre's first prize of Krishi Karman Award four times in five years. It is not an exaggeration to say that Puratchi Thalaivi and her Government have brought about a renaissance in the lives of farmers. Even when drought-like situation prevailed in the State, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took proper measures to combat the drought and record the highest foodgrain production in the State.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave 65 Government Arts and Science Colleges in the last five years. If a Country is to develop, then people should be educated. With a view to impart education to people in the lower strata of society, and for the wards of poor workers, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma declared open 65 Arts and Science colleges. The present Government, which follows the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, opened 11 more Arts and Science Colleges, taking the total number of colleges to 76 to make higher education possible even for depressed and oppressed people. The percentage of students, doing higher education in the State, which was 21 per cent in the year 2011 increased to 44.32 per cent in 2016, the highest in the

Country. Now education is available for people in the urban and rural areas due to opening of 227 new primary schools, upgradation of 116 primary schools as middle schools, 829 middle schools as high schools and 402 high schools as higher secondary schools. No other Government has opened so many schools. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma with a long-term perspective opened schools mostly in rural areas so that access to schools is possible for those in Villages. Due to this measure, the percentage of students in primary schools is 99.85 and it is 99.20 per cent in middle school.

We are creating a major record in the medical field. Yesterday, the Hon'ble Health Minister received the award for Tamil Nadu being the foremost State in the Country in organ transplantation. The Health Department in Tamil Nadu is shining in all respects. In the last six years, 1,20,506 people have been appointed as doctors and para medical staff. Chennai is considered the medical city of India. Tamil Nadu is a disease-free State in the Country thanks to various measures by the Country.

To make Tamil Nadu as the number one industrialized State, Puratchi Thalaivi organized entrepreneurs meet in the State and following this conference, the State received investments to the tune of Rs. 2,42,170 crore. 99 MoUs were signed. Of this, 61 projects, costing Rs.62,732 crore, are in different stages of implementation. About 76,000 people got direct or indirect employment. The present Amma Government is taking steps to organize the Second investors' conference in 2018. Following this, employment opportunities will be created for educated youth and the Country will develop economically.

Today, DMK MLA Thiru. Duraimurugan in an interview to a TV charged that sand smuggling was going on in the State, all 24 hours of the day. In truth, what he said is not at all true. Perhaps it might have happened during the period when Duraimurugan was the PWD Minister.

To make sand available at a lower price, the Government decided to take over the sand trade and was making arrangements. But it has been stayed by the Court, resulting in hike in the price of sand. As far as this Government is concerned it wants to make sand available at a lower price. For that it decided to take over sand trade and worked out a scheme on its implementation after consultation with Ministers and Senior Officials. As a first step we started on-line sale of sand. Without giving any room for complaint, we were selling sand on-line. We fixed CCTV cameras in quarries. Vehicles which were taking the sand were also recorded in the CCTV and none could engage in any wrong. Similarly, only through on-line booking, sand could be taken and the money had to be paid on-line. By following these measures, there was little possibility for things going wrong. But due to Court order, there has been a scarcity of sand resulting in increase in price of sand. We never did anything wrong and we will not be a party to illegal activities.

Nowadays it has become the habit of M.K. Stalin to find fault with Amma's Government or the AIADMK. There is not an iota of truth in his allegations against the Government. The party cadres and the people know this. Whenever he makes allegations against this Government, we are giving fitting

replies. I am confident that the people will not accept his wild and baseless allegations. The AIADMK consists of true volunteers, who always stand with the party and the Government. Similarly, the public's support is always with us. Both Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi are living with us as Gods and are protecting the Government and the party.

Today the District Minister Thiru. R.Doraikannu, the party MP Thiru. R.Vaithilingam, belonging to the District and other MPs and MLAs have given some demands pertaining to Thanjavur District. Based on their demands, I would like to make some announcements.

I am duty-bound to say that the Government has decided to implement many welfare schemes for the District.

Your District Minister Thiru. R.Doraikannu and the Rajya Sabha MP Thiru. R.Vaithilingam predicted heavy rains during the celebrations. But the people participated in the conference despite heavy rains. They braved the rains as this is the fort of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Even if there is thunder or lightning, they will not be deterred. I am thankful to those who participated in the conference despite rains.

I thank the Hon'ble Minister Thiru. R.Doraikannu, and R.Vaithilingam, MP for making excellent arrangements for the success of the conference. I thank the District Collector and Government officials also for their co-operation in conducting the conference. Women, children, and the general public who have come to participate in the function should reach home safely. Then only I will be happy. Particularly those going by vehicles and by walk should take care.

Yesterday was ours, Today is ours and Tomorrow will also be ours. Vazhga Anna Naamam, Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh, and Thodarga Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma rule.

Following are the announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the conference:

Naming of Paddy variety:

1. The newly released paddy variety this year has been named M.G.R. 100 and the variety was distributed to beneficiaries.

Upgradation of schools:

2. Yanai Adi Municipal Primary School, where Puratchi Thalaivar studied, will be upgraded as middle school and the school will be named Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. Memorial School. It was reported that noon meal had not been served in the school. Orders have been issued to open noon meal nutrition centre in the school. Now noon meal is served in the school and a kitchen will soon be constructed for preparing nutritious meals at the school itself.

New Veterinary Centre:

3. Two new Veterinary centres will be opened one each at Thittacheri village in Tiruppanandal Union and the other in Keezhamangalam village in Tiruvonam union.

Regulated marketing centres:

4. A godown with a capacity of 2,000 metric tonnes at a cost of Rs.2.40 crore will be set up in the Kumbakonam Regulated Market Complex for the benefit of farmers. Similarly godowns with a capacity of

1000 metric ton will be set up, one each at Pattukottai, Orthanadu, Thanjavur, and Vallam Regulated Markets at a cost of Rs.1.3 crore each. These five godowns are to be set up with the financial assistance of NABARD.

5. At the Papanasam Regulated Market, electronic auction software facility, electronic auction centre, general sorting units and weigh bridge, will be provided, at a cost of Rs.1.02 crore.

Electrification:

6. A new sub-station will be set up at Pandanallur in Thanjavur District at a cost of Rs.4.5 crore to improve the power distribution.

7. A new 110/11 KW sub-station will be erected at a cost of Rs.5.97 crore at Min Nagar.

8. A 110/33-11 KW sub-station will be established in Thirumalaisamudram at a cost of Rs.10.40 crore.

9. The 110/11 KW sub-station at Poondi will be upgraded as 110/33-11KW sub-station at a cost of Rs.2.59 crore.

10. The 110/11 KW sub-station at Uranipuram will be upgraded as 110/33-11KW sub-station at a cost of Rs.2.12 crore.

11. A computerized fuse-off call centre will be set up at Thanjavur Power Distribution Circle at a cost of Rs.44.95 crore.

12. The Peravurani sub-divisional office under Pattukottai will be converted as Peravurani divisional office at a cost of Rs.35 lakh.

Formation of Regulators:

13. Survey works will be undertaken for setting up a regulator with a footpath at 5/77 mile across River Cauvery in Kumbakonam Town Kumbakonam Division.

Floor level walls:

14. At Sunderaperumal Kovil in Kumbakonam Division across 52/3-4 Arasalaru, a floor-level wall will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 5.3 crore.

15. At Pavundarikapuram village in Tiruvidaimaruthur Division a floor-level wall will be constructed across 63/1-2 mile Keerthimannar River to provide water to Mangudi Canal.

Check Dams:

16. A check dam will be constructed across Thalayamangalam tank at Thalayamangalam a cost of Rs.50 lakh.

17. A check dam will be constructed at Vannankollaipatti village in Orathanadu Division across Panankulam surplus water flow (L.S.200 Km) at a cost of Rs.70 lakh.

18. A check dam will be constructed at Thoppuviduthi village across Vannanvari (L.S 0.100 Km) at a cost of Rs.60 lakh.

19. A check dam will be constructed at Arumalai village in Orathanadu across Arumalai drainage (L.S 1.250 km) at cost of Rs.50 lakh.

20. A check dam will be constructed at Vellur and Thondarampet villages across Pattuvanachi drainage at L.S.6.50 km and L.S 11 km at a cost of Rs.95 lakh.

Medical facilities:

21. Modern equipment, worth Rs.3.28 crore, will be provided to Thanjavur Medical College Hospital under the JICA Scheme.

22. To find the heart attack at the initial stage itself, heart attack treatment centres

will be set up at Thanjavur Medical College Hospital (HUB) and in its allied hospitals at Kumbakonam, Pattukottai, Thiruvaiyaru at a cost of Rs.1 crore.

23. Radiation treatment centre for cancer patients will be set up at Thanjavur Medical College Hospital at a cost of Rs.12 crore.

24. The CEmONC centre at the Thanjavur Medical College Hospital will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.24 crore.

25. A no cost fertility centre will be set up at Government Raja Mirasdar Hospital at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh.

26. A medical godown will be set up in Thanjavur District at a cost of Rs.75 lakh.

27. Computer Tablets will be supplied to 309 village nurses in Thanjavur District to record medical data at a cost of Rs.30.9 lakh.

28. An extended primary welfare facilities will be provided at Sethubhavachatram Division at a cost of Rs.31.35 lakh.

29. Primary-level consultation centre will be set up at Pattukottai and Orathanadu Hospitals at a cost of Rs.4.2 crore.

30. CEmONC Operation Theatre and Pediatric ward with facilities for higher studies of Diplomate of National Board (DNB) will be set up Pattukottai Government Hospital at a cost of Rs.1.49 crore.

31. Modern gadgets such as dialysis and endoscopy, Pain relief and support service centre for outpatients and infectious germs cleaning equipment for used medical equipment will be a set up at Kumbakonam Government Hospital at a cost of Rs.1.25 crore.

32. A modern Ophthalmic centre will be formed at Vallam Government Hospital at a cost of Rs.16 lakh.

By-pass roads:

33. The third phase of the by-pass road for a length of 9.42 km will be laid for the Kumbakonam Town and for this land acquisition work is going on.

Bridges:

34. A bridge on the Chinnapulikadu – Ragavambalpuram road (0.2 Km) will be set up.

35. A small bridge on the Saliamangalam – Sadayarkovil road (7/4 km) at a cost of Rs.1.5 crore.

36. A bridge on the Uranipuram – Kariaviduthi road (0/8 km) at a cost of Rs.1.6 crore.

37. A bridge across G.A.Canal between Vellalar Street and Adhi Dravidar Street in Idayathi Village at a cost of Rs.1.75 crore.

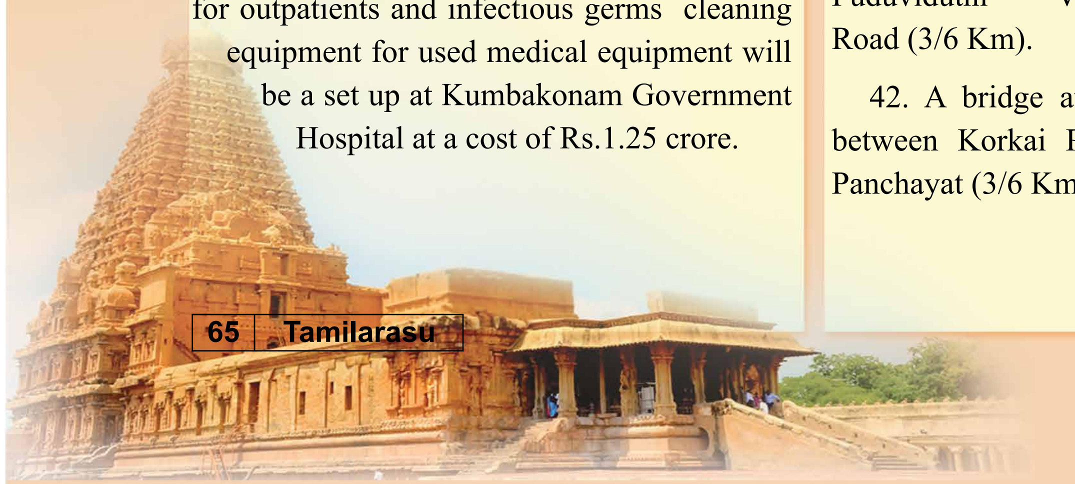
38. A bridge on the Thiruneelakudi – Kadalangudi road (0/6 km) at a cost of Rs.1.98 crore.

39. A bridge across river Cauvery at the point where it interrupts the Ayyampettai – Ganapathi Agraharam road (1/10 km).

40. A bridge at a cost of Rs.2.60 crore on the Thiruvisainallur- Tirubuvanam road (0/2 km).

41. A bridge at a cost of Rs.1.5 crore on the Puduviduthi – Vettuvakottai- Karambakudi Road (3/6 Km).

42. A bridge at a cost of Rs. 1.98 crore between Korkai Panchayat and Seshambadi Panchayat (3/6 Km) in Reddipalayam Village.



43. A bridge at a cost of Rs.1.97 crore on the Neivasal- Arasapattu-Oosimadhagu road.

44. A bridge at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crore on the Alathur- Pulavanji Road.

Project Report:

45. A detailed project report is being prepared for a by-pass road for Thiruvaiyaru.

46. Feasibility report is being prepared for upgrading the Thanjavur – Pattukottai – Aranthangi – Sayalkudi State Highways as national highways for a length of 69.2 km between 0/0 – 69.2 km and converting it into a four lane road at a cost of Rs.3.2 crore.

47. A detailed project report is being prepared for a high level bridge at Iyyampettai across Kudamurutti river on the Iyyampettai – Ganapathi Agraharam (0/4 km).

48. A detailed project report is being prepared for a high level bridge across Vennaru on the SH 99 Thirukattupalli – Sengipatti – Pattukottai road (5/10 km – 6/2 km).

News in Picture

Hon'ble Ministers, Thiru. D. Jayakumar (Fisheries & Personnel Administrative Reforms), Thiru. Kadambur Raju (Information & Publicity), Thiru. P. Benjamin (Rural Industries), Tmt. V.M. Rajalakshmi (Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare), K. Pandiarajan (Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture Archaeology), Tmt. S. Valarmathi (Backward Classes & Minorities Welfare), Tmt. B. Valarmathi, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation and Thiru. R. Venkatesan I.A.S., Department of Tamil Development & Information, paid floral tribute to a decorated portrait of Avvaiyar kept near her statue at Kamarajar Salai, Chennai on 08.03.2018 on the occasion of World Women's Day.

Chief Minister lauds merits of Naturopathy, Yoga

PG block and hostel at Arumbakkam Indigenous Medicine hospital complex

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open on 23.02.2018, a post graduate block and a hostel for post graduate students of the Government Yoga and Naturopathy College at Arignar Anna Government Indigenous System of Medicine hospital complex, Arumbakkam, Chennai and also a Qi Health Exhibition. The post graduate block is constructed at a cost of Rs.6.60 crore and the hostel, at a cost of Rs. 5.20 crore.

With the lofty ideal of providing uninterrupted high class medical facilities to the poor, the Tamil Nadu Government, functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing many pioneering schemes such as strengthening the infrastructure facilities in Government Medical College Hospitals, District Government Headquarters Hospitals, setting up new primary health centres, giving hi-tech medical facilities and opening medical colleges for the five branches of the indigenous system of medicine.

The Government Yoga and Naturopathy Medical college hospital is functioning with 50 beds. It offers, through yoga and naturopathy medicine, treatments with no side-effects such as fasting therapy, yoga therapy, massage, steam bath, plantain leaf bath, mud bath, magnetotherapy, colour therapy, raw food, herbal and aromatic therapies and also mental health consultations. The opening of the post graduate block will double the bed strength of the hospital.

The Qi exhibition displays several systems of medicare like that for human resourcefulness, yoga, acupuncture, aroma therapy, diet, herbal, fasting, mud, water, magnetic, massage and colour therapies, de-stressing, weight reduction, healthy delivery of babies, natural skin and hair care, eye care, memory exercise, increasing concentration and healthy practices for child up-bringing. Free consultations and treatment will be given at this exhibition for obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, thyroid deficiencies, infertility and cysts and for pain relief.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said : "At the outset, I offer my grateful respects to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs, Hon'ble minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr.C.Vijayabaskar who has made excellent arrangements for the function in an educative manner, Chief Secretary to Government, Lecturers, Principal of the College and media friends.

"Truly, naturopathy is an excellent system of medicine. Our doctors have put up an excellent exhibition that explains clearly how the Government Yoga and Naturopathy college is functioning. The exhibition induces in everyone the feeling to take naturopathy and practice yoga. Nature's products like sesame, groundnut, fruits and gooseberry juice and wheat crop juice are all intended for physical health and for mitigating body ailments. After visiting the exhibition, we have a clear idea of different herbs and the diseases they control and cure.

Likewise, the exhibition demonstrates and educates us on massage therapy and acupuncture. The Government has now opened the post graduate block and hostel for students. The message of the exhibition and the facilities provided by the Government for students should disseminate to all people so that they can make use of them. My good wishes for the success of this event."

STAR 2.0 scheme simplifies document registration

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated at the Secretariat on 12.02.2018, the Rs. 176.44 crore Simplified and Transparent Administration of Registration – STAR 2.0 scheme and the upgraded Net portal for it – www.tnreginet.gov.in. The creation of this website is the realization of the announcement made by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma that a software would be developed for the speedy fulfillment of people's needs in respect of registration of documents.

This scheme facilitates preparation of NET documents from the house itself in a simple way. Verification of documents with the necessary proofs through the internet even before registration, fixing the date of registration, registering and handing back the documents in 10 minutes, communicating the status of the document through SMS and e-mail immediately, net payment, sending SMS message to the earlier owner of the document at the time of registration of the document to avert fraudulent registration, a new facility to compare fingerprint to prevent impersonation, toll free phone facility to clear people's doubts, NET forwarding of petitions for the change of Patta post-registration to the Revenue Department and communicating the same through SMS and dispatching receipt, extending the facility of downloading, free of cost encumbrance certificates for a period of 42 years (that is, from the year 1975) from 30 years, facility to get electronic copy of the document and the like are the facilities available.

Fifteen godowns opened across State fulfilling Amma's promise in 2014

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 20.02.2018, 15 storage facilities across the State, constructed at a total cost of Rs.18.02 crore.

The facilities opened were: 2 godowns with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes each at Kidarangondan Village, Tharangambadi Taluk, Nagapattinam District, constructed at a cost of Rs.2.65 crore, 4 godowns with a capacity of 1,500 tonnes each and one godown with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes (Rs.4.77 crore) at Gugaiyanallur, Katpadi Taluk, 2 godowns with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes each (Rs.2.65 crore) at Kunichi Village, Tirupattur Taluk, 2 godowns with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes each (Rs. 2.65 crore) at Melnathampakkam Village, Arcot Taluk – all in Vellore District, 2 godowns with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes each (Rs.2.65 crore) at Thirukkuvalai, Nagapattinam District and 2 godowns with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes each (Rs.2.65 crore) at Athani Village, Anthiyur Taluk, Erode District.

The construction of the new godowns by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, is in realization of the announcement made by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma at the Legislative Assembly on 01.08.2014 under Rule 110. The purpose, Hon'ble Amma said, was to increase the storage facility, store the foodgrains in a regular way and ensure food security to all.

Scheme launched for screening of babies for hearing loss

As a token of launching the newborn screening programme for the early detection of hearing loss, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated the Rs.3,30,77,600/- scheme at the Social Service Centre in Vadapalani, Chennai, through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 30.01.2018.

For the benefit of differently-abled persons, who are as much a part of society, the Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing many welfare schemes to provide them equal opportunities.

Hearing defects among juvenile children in India are one of the common defects. If one fails to find out the defect between one to three years, it leads to defect in speech and in language development. So the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing the scheme to identify hearing defects among babies.

The aim of the scheme is to identify the percentage of defects among children at the early stage and provide them necessary gadgets and begin initial speech therapy at the baby's sixth month to bring them on a par with other children.

To start with, the scheme is to be implemented in 11 mother and child care clinics in Chennai Corporation, in 10 hospitals including Sivaganga District headquarters hospital, Divisional hospitals and Upgraded Primary health centres.

On the same occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated a scheme to install voice signals at road junctions for the convenience of differently- abled persons.

The 300 voice signals will be set up at 150 road junctions in the city, costing Rs.43.82 lakh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister formally inaugurated the voice signal at Kamarajar Salai - Besant Salai in Chennai as a token inauguration of the scheme through video conferencing at the Secretariat.

With the installation of these voice signals in road junctions, visually challenged persons can cross the road without anybody's help as these voice signals raise additional alarms according to the road traffic signal.

Meeting housing needs of the poor

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 02.02.2018, declared open on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, 960 multi-storied tenements, constructed at a cost of Rs.112.80 crore at Moorthinagar in Chennai through video-conferencing.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open 464 multi-storied tenements at Seniamman Koil Street in Chennai and 76 multi-storied tenements at Punga Nagar Scheme area in Madurai, together costing Rs.43.41 crore.

The State Government, following the path laid down by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing many housing schemes for the benefit of the poor and lower middle class families, taking into consideration the growing population and urban expansion.

Each of the tenements declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in Moorthinagar Street scheme area in Vyasarpadi in Chennai measures 416 sq.ft. Each complex has ground plus seven floors.

In Seniamman Koil Scheme area, Tondiarpet, the flats in 9 complexes measure 397 sq.ft each on ground plus three floors. The flats in Punga Nagar scheme in Madurai measure 374 sq.ft in 10 housing complexes, on ground plus three floors.

'Government ever vigilant like Amma in safeguarding rights over Cauvery'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the Supreme Court judgment on sharing of Cauvery water on 16.02.2018 *(English Translation)*.

The Cauvery Water issue is not merely the livelihood issue of Cauvery delta farmers but one that is intertwined with the sensibilities of Tamil Nadu. As a lower riparian State, Tamil Nadu has greater rights on the Cauvery river waters though the river originates in Karnataka. The 1892 and 1924 agreements between Madras Presidency and Mysore State clarifies Tamil Nadu's rights on the Cauvery waters.

However, Karnataka, in contravention of the provisions of the agreements, took steps to construct many dams in late 1960s and early 1970s without consulting Cauvery basin States and without the approval of the Central Government. Karnataka also expanded its ayacuts. The Tamil Nadu Government, headed by Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. requested the Central Government in 1986 to constitute a Tribunal under the Inter State River Water Disputes Act of 1956 to bring to a close the dispute between the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka on the Cauvery river waters. The Central Government, however did not take any steps on the demand.

The Tamil Nadu Farmers' Protection Association filed a case in the Supreme Court regarding the sharing of Cauvery river waters. The Tamil Nadu Government impleaded itself in this case. In 1990, the Court issued an order for the constitution of a Tribunal to resolve the Cauvery waters dispute. As a result of this order, the Central Government revived the Tamil Nadu Government's letter sent in 1986 during Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s regime, issued a notification and forwarded it to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

On 25.06.1991, the Tribunal issued an interim order, directing Karnataka to ensure release of 205 tmc ft. of water from its reservoir every year to Mettur dam. It also directed that the release should be on monthly and weekly basis and that the order would be in force till the final verdict was given.

The Karnataka Government promulgated an ordinance against this interim order. His Excellency the President of India sought the Supreme Court's opinion on this ordinance. On 22.11.1991, the Supreme Court gave the Centre its opinion that the Cauvery water Tribunal's interim order was valid, that it should be published in the Central Government's gazette and that Karnataka Government's ordinance was invalid. On that basis, the Central Government gazetted the Tribunal's interim order on 10.12.1991. The gazetting

of the interim order and establishing of Tamil Nadu's rights were due to the firm steps taken by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

After prolonged hearings , the Tribunal, set up in 1990, gave its final verdict on 05.02.2007. The Tribunal, fixed the total flow in Cauvery as 740 tmc ft of water on 50 per cent dependability and allotted the waters to the basin States. Accordingly Tamil Nadu was given 419 tmc ft. of water, Karnataka 270 tmc ft. of water, Kerala 30 tmc ft. of water and Puducherry 7 tmc ft. of water. 10 tmc ft. of water was for environmental protecting unavoidable surplus was 4 tmc ft. of water. The Tribunal also recommended the constitution of a Cauvery Management Board and a Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee for the proper implementation of the final order.

Though the earlier DMK Government was then in power in the State and was a partner in the Central Government, it did not take any steps for the publication of the final order of the Tribunal in the Central Government gazette which would have paved the way for the implementation of the order. The whole Tamil Nadu knew this fact.

The then State Government convened all-party meetings on 19.02.2007 and on 15.04.2007 to consider the follow up steps to be taken on the Tribunal's final order. In those meetings, the All India Anna DMK took the firm stand that the best way to end this problem and to get relief to Tamil Nadu, was to approach the Supreme court without much delay as the court had started exercising its powers on this issue. The civil cases filed by Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu against the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal came up for hearing in the Supreme Court now and then.

In her Statement on 09.06.2014, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal gave its final order on 05.02.2007. Thiru. Karunanidhi was then in power both at the Centre and in the State. At that time, I continuously urged that steps should be taken to get the final verdict of the Cauvery Tribunal in the Central Government's gazette. Till he demitted office in 2011, Thiru. Karunanidhi initiated no action on getting the final verdict of the Tribunal published in the Central Government gazette. The reason was he did not want his family business in Karnataka to get affected. Without taking any steps to make his native town fertile, Thiru. Karunanidhi fought and got plum Departments and enriched himself. Such a Thiru. Karunanidhi says that the views of all parties should be obtained on setting up the Cauvery Management Board. This raises the doubt whether he is not in favour of setting up such a Board".

"After I assumed office as Chief Minister for the third time in 2011, I took constructive action to get the Tribunal's final verdict published in the Central Government gazette. Before it was published in the gazette, Thiru. Karunanidhi Stated that T.R. Balu of the DMK had met the Prime Minister and spoken to him. But till date, Thiru. Karunanidhi has not revealed anything about the mystery of that talk. Still, the final verdict of the Cauvery Tribunal got published in the Central Government gazette, as a result of the struggle waged by the Tamil Nadu Government under my leadership". This Statement exposes the DMK's action very explicitly.

After taking over the reins of administration in 2011, Idaya Deivam Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma met the then Hon'ble Prime Minister on 14.06.2011 at New Delhi and stressed on the publication of the final verdict

of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in the Central Government gazette and on the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River water Regulation Committee for the implementation of the order.

Despite the continued pressure exerted by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma through letters and demand petitions, the Central Government remained deaf. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, followed it up with a case in the Supreme Court and as a result of the action taken subsequently and on account of Supreme Court's intervention, the final order of the Tribunal was published in the Central Government gazette on 19.02.2013.

Tamil Nadu's rights were established in the Cauvery issue on account of the untiring efforts of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. In continuation of this, the Central Government was pressured constantly for the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River water Regulation Committee. Also, an interim petition was filed in the Supreme Court and legal action was initiated.

The Tamil Nadu Government also took legal steps continuously for protecting the farmers' rights in Tamil Nadu.

Details of the interim petitions filed by Tamil Nadu Government in the Supreme Court regarding Karnataka Government's proposed construction of dams unilaterally and without getting prior approval of Tamil Nadu, lift irrigation schemes etc.:-

- On 21.03.2012, a petition was filed to restrain Karnataka from releasing water for irrigation in the summer season.
- Petitions were filed on 21.07.2012, 17.10.2015 and 22.08.2016 regarding the non-release of water by the Karnataka Government at the Billigundulu water station point on the monthly basis as per the final order of the Tribunal.
- An interim petition was filed on 11.11.2013 seeking the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board.
- A petition was filed on 11.04.2014 to restrain the Karnataka Government from modernizing and implementing lift irrigation schemes.
- A petition was filed on 18.11.2014 for prohibiting the Karnataka Government from constructing a dam at Mekadatu.

The Karnataka and Kerala Governments filed civil cases in the Supreme Court against the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal. The Tamil Nadu Government too filed a civil case over certain aspects of the order that were against Tamil Nadu's interests. After decreeing that these cases are fit for hearing, final arguments took place from July 2017 to September 2017. Senior lawyers who appeared for Tamil Nadu placed their arguments effectively. After hearing all the parties, the Supreme Court, on 20.09.2017, reserved its judgment.

Today (16.02.2018), the Supreme Court delivered its judgment. In that judgment –

- It has ordered the Central Government to bring about a mechanism as mentioned in section 6 – A of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956 within six weeks for implementing the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as urged continuously on the Central Government by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and Amma's Government that functions on her path. The judgment also mentions that on no account this time limit would be extended. This is a great victory

to the stand taken by Amma's Government. The Tamil Nadu Government will press the Centre to execute the Supreme Court's order within the prescribed time limit.

• Inter-State rivers are National assets. No particular State can claim exclusive rights on it. This verdict of the Supreme Court has again been reiterated in this judgment. This is to be welcomed.

• Karnataka's argument that the 1892 and 1924 agreements are not valid has not been accepted.

• The Cauvery ayacut in Tamil Nadu has been fixed as 24.708 lakh acres as mentioned in the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal; the Supreme Court has ensured the extent of irrigated area and the water needs as per the Tribunal's verdict. The Supreme Court has not accepted Karnataka's argument that the Cauvery irrigation area in Tamil Nadu should be reduced to 21 lakh acres from 24.708 lakh acres and the water need to 100 tmc ft. of water and it has recognized the present cultivation area of 24.708 lakh acres in Tamil Nadu as permitted by the Tribunal.

• It has accepted the allotment of 10 tmc ft. of water for environmental needs in Tamil Nadu.

• It has also been ensured that water should be released to Tamil Nadu on monthly basis as per the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal without infringing the present order of the Supreme Court, for 15 years.

The Cauvery Tribunal, in its final order, has computed ground water in the Cauvery delta area as 20 tmc ft. of water but Stated that it should not be taken into account for irrigational use. It is disappointing that the Supreme Court has now taken the ground water also into account and reduced Tamil Nadu's share of water at Billigundulu to 177.25 tmc ft. of water from 192 tmc ft. of water.

Everyone knows that the Hon'ble Amma's Government is vigilant in safeguarding the interests of Tamils. However, the DMK's working president Thiru. Stalin and DMK's principal secretary Thiru. Duraimurugan are trying to create an image that Tamil Nadu's rights have been snatched away by this judgment. But it was the DMK Government which gave up Tamil Nadu's rights and acted against Tamil Nadu's interests. The Karnataka Government constructed a dam across the Kabini river and brought it into operation in 1974 when the DMK was ruling Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu lost its rights as the then DMK Government did not take necessary steps. Likewise, if only particular provisions of the 1924 agreement had been reviewed in 1974, this situation would not have arisen. Through these, it is clear that only in DMK's rule, Tamil Nadu has lost its rights.

But Hon'ble Amma's Government has once again re-established Tamil Nadu's rights due to its effective arguments through senior advocates of Supreme Court in the last 7 years. Moreover, the judgment contains many favourable aspects for Tamil Nadu. But these persons who speak only to criticize Hon'ble Amma's Government, have forgotten to mention about the favourable aspects of the judgment.

I wish to State that Hon'ble Amma's Government, which is ever vigilant to safeguard Tamil Nadu's rights and farmers' interests, will scrutinize the judgment fully, take forward the favourable aspects to get our share of the Cauvery waters in full and take necessary follow up action speedily and firmly after getting the advice of legal experts.

Mobile Command and Control Stations that monitor drones

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at his camp office here on 11.01.2018 flagged off a Mobile Command and Control Station, designed by the Aerospace Research Centre at the MIT complex, in Anna University. The function of this MCCS is to monitor various drones that are undertaking survey of natural disasters and other social service activities being carried out for the benefit of people.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made a Rule 110 Statement in the Assembly on 25.09.2017 that the State Government would sanction Rs. 20 crore to the Anna University for designing drones to monitor the services rendered by various Government Departments. Through these drones, relief and rehabilitation works could be carried out during natural disasters, the affected areas could be surveyed and valuable data collected. By utilizing these drones, relief and rehabilitation works could be carried out expeditiously.

The Aerospace Research Centre at the Anna University has designed many drones and the Police are now utilizing them for monitoring crowds, easing traffic congestion and safety and security operations.

To monitor the functioning of various drones, the Aerospace Research Station in Anna University, for the first time in the Country, has developed a mobile Command and Control Station. The special feature of the station is that even during natural disasters and failure of telecommunication facilities, this mobile station can be operated for three days without power.

'Indian Government must strongly protest against Sri Lanka move for stringent law'

D.O.letter dated 25.01.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I am writing with deep concern about the unabated apprehensions of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu and the implications of the new Bill introduced in the Sri Lankan Parliament on 24th January, 2018 with provisions to impose huge penalties on Indian fishermen, who engage in legitimate fishing in their traditional fishing grounds of Palk Bay.

It has been reported that 8 fishermen, along with their 2 mechanised fishing boats set out for fishing from Jegathapattinam fishing base of Pudukkottai District, have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of 25.01.2018 and have been taken to Sri Lanka.

New amendments made in the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, 1960 of Sri Lanka during the year 2017, has banned and declared bottom trawling as a punishable offence. In addition, a new Bill named the Foreign Fishing Vessels Bill, has also been approved by the Sri Lankan Cabinet which provides for stringent penalties against fishing in the sovereign territory of Sri Lanka. It is widely reported in the media, that the Bill has been introduced in the Sri Lankan Parliament on 24.01.2018 and its provisions were aimed at Indian Fishing Trawlers from Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu fishermen, as well as their fishing gear, while they are peacefully fishing in their traditional fishing waters of Palk Bay. This new Bill has provisions to incarcerate our fishermen for longer periods of time and impose huge penalties, which run upto few crores of Indian rupees. The life and livelihood of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu who fish in the traditional waters of Palk Bay, will then be left at the mercy of the Sri Lankan Government. This move has created widespread resentment and panic amongst the fishermen of Tamil Nadu, especially amongst the fishermen fishing in the Palk Bay.

It is an extremely unfortunate development, at the time when the Ministers of India and Sri Lanka met twice and the Joint Working Group on Fisheries met thrice, to work out a permanent solution to resolve this long pending sensitive livelihood issue. In addition, the Government of Tamil Nadu with the support of Government of India has initiated various proactive measures to decongest the Palk Bay and diversify the trawling fishing effort from Palk Bay into deep sea fishing. This unilateral move by the Government of Sri Lanka has far reaching implications on the livelihood propositions of fishermen from Tamil Nadu and will definitely hamper proactive efforts taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the diplomatic efforts taken by the Government of India.

Palk Bay is the historic and traditional fishing area of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu.Their historical rights were simply signed away, as part of the ill-advised Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976, which also unilaterally ceded Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka, without having any foresight or concern for the plight of our innocent fishermen.

The stand of our Revered Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and the Government of Tamil Nadu to abrogate the 1974 Indo Sri Lankan agreement that created an imaginary International Maritime Boundary Line and ceded the Katchatheevu islet along with the potential traditional fishing grounds of our fishermen to Sri Lanka, is sub-judice before the Supreme Court of India. Thus, it would be fitting for the Government of India to register its strong disapproval of such a move, affecting the livelihood of our fishermen in the Palk Bay, at the highest diplomatic level.

You are also aware that 163 fishing boats and gear, which are essential for fishermen to earn their humble livelihood, have not yet been released by Sri Lanka. Long periods of disuse and the monsoons have condemned the boats and equipment to ruin and the poor fishermen are being subjected to a huge permanent loss. I request that the only means of livelihood of our fishermen is returned in a refurbished condition by the Government of India at the earliest.

I request you to immediately take action through the highest diplomatic channels to secure the release of 108 fishermen and 165 fishing boats, including the 8 fishermen and 2 mechanised fishing boats who were apprehended on 25.01.2016. I once again earnestly urge you to direct the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Mission in Sri Lanka to immediately and effectively respond to this latest move by the Sri Lankan side, by registering our strong protest against the new legislation of the Sri Lankan Government and ensure that the Act is not implemented.

Training programme for Public Relations Officers

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity, Thiru. Kadambur Raju, inaugurated the review meeting and training programme for Public Relations Officers.

The review meeting and the training programme for the PROs who carry to the people the achievements of the Tamil Nadu Government, headed by the Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, which is following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, was held at the Mini Hall of Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai on 12.03.2018.

The Hon'ble Information and Publicity Minister addressed the gathering after inaugurating the training programme and the review meeting.

The State Government has been conceiving and implementing various special schemes for the welfare of the people. With a view to implement all promises made by the Hon'ble Amma during the last Assembly elections, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, immediately after taking charge as the Chief Minister, implemented distribution of two-wheelers for

working women, increased the grant under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity scheme to Rs.18,000/-, enhanced the assistance for the unemployed youth to double, reintroduced prohibition in the State in a phased manner by closing down 500 TASMAC shops, and sanctioned 1,000 houses for fishermen through a separate housing scheme.

As announced by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the centenary celebrations of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R is being celebrated in 30 Districts in a grand manner. In these functions, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 2,329 schemes, worth Rs. 5,127.11 crore, and laid foundation stones for 3,200 new schemes, costing Rs.5,712.90 crore. 521 new announcements were made and welfare assistance was distributed to 8,11,481 beneficiaries, totally costing Rs.5397.52 crore.

This apart, in other Government functions, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 35,819 completed schemes, costing Rs.11,827.34 crore, and laid the foundation stones for 6,411 new schemes, at a cost of Rs.8,837.29 crore.

Within one year rule of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, schemes worth Rs. 331.68 crore have been undertaken under Kudimaramathu scheme. Alluvial soil from ponds, canals and dams have been given free of cost to farmers and potters. For the first time in the history, Mettur Dam has been de-silted.

Through School Education Department, 3,359 teachers and 4,356 non-teachers have been recruited. Training classes for competitive examinations were inaugurated and new syllabus for improving the standard of education was introduced. Four per cent reservation in jobs has been provided for differently abled persons.

The guideline value of lands has been reduced by 33 per cent throughout the State, tax exemption and tax reduction were announced for more than 50 products. The Government sanctioned Rs.10 crore for the Tamil Chair in Harvard University, and distributed free set of boxes to 18.54 lakh people.

Steps are being taken to construct a memorial at a cost of Rs.50.8 crore for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, where she was laid to rest and to make Veda Illam, where the Hon'ble Amma lived, into a memorial.

Through the Information Department, memorials at a cost of Rs.6.05 crore were declared open for Nadigar Thilagam Chevalier Sivaji Ganesan, Manu Nidhi Chozhan, Pattukottai Alagiri, Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan, and Mani Mandapam for farmer Perunthalaivar Narayanaswami Naidu at Annur in Coimbatore District, at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore, issued orders to celebrate the birth anniversaries of Kodikatha Tiruppur Kumaran and freedom fighter Puli Thevan as Government functions, declared open memorials for Swami Sahajananda in Chidambaram Dr.B.Sevanthi Adhithan in Tiruchendur, and orders were issued for construction of a memorial arch for Puratchi Thalaivar on the Kamarajar Salai in Chennai in connection with his commemoration of his centenary birthday celebrations, at a cost of Rs.2.52 crore.

Public relations is a challenging task. To co-ordinate people from various Departments and get good name is a difficult task. Despite many odds, the PROs worked on holidays, during rains, floods, storms, and festival days, without taking holidays to bring glory to the Department. Specifically, the PROs working in Districts made excellent arrangements for the centenary celebrations of Dr.Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R at short notice and their work was appreciated by the higher officials of the Department.

We have got a good opportunity to take the various schemes of the Government, its achievements and its welfare measures to the people. These works, which are being carried out successfully at the State headquarters, should be done at the District level also by the respective PROs.

PROs are given the latest computers, laptops, data cards, cell phones, camera, and ultra-modern publicity vans in tune with the latest scientific developments, and they should make the best use of them to pass on the latest information to the media as quickly as possible.

PROs should carry out relentlessly their tasks of organizing press tours to areas of development, compilation of success stories of Government schemes, organizing short photo exhibitions, preparation of short films on Government's achievements and screening the films in theatres and in interior villages through video vans.

No doubt, you have been carrying out the tasks commendably. The Department wants to hone your skills further to achieve the targets by giving training to you through Department experts. For giving training to you, the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government has been sanctioning funds every year.

Training is being given to the PROs for improving their work culture, and how to utilize their skills for better understanding of various Government schemes and development works, how to co-ordinate with other departments and how to take the news quickly to the media.

PROs should receive proper advice on rules and regulations from Department Personnel about free bus pass, accreditation cards, Government flats, house site pattas on concession, pension for journalists and their families.

Apart from publishing the Government achievements and its schemes in newspapers, many short films are produced by the Department and they are being screened in theatres. District PROs and Assistant PROs should monitor and conduct periodic inspection of theatres to know whether the short films on Government schemes and the welfare measures, produced by the Department, are screened regularly. Strict action should be taken against theatres which do not screen the short films produced by the Department.

The review meeting was held in the presence of the Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. R.Venkatesan, I.A.S., The Director of Information and Public Relations Dr.P.Sankar I.A.S., welcomed the gathering. Additional Director (Information) Thiru. S.P.Ezhilazhagan, proposed the vote of thanks. Additional Director (Public Relations) Thiru. OL.Ravindran Joint Directors, Tmt.K.Shanthi, Thiru.K.Shanmuga Sundaram, Thiru.M.P.Anbuchozhan, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, PROs of all Districts and Department Officials participated.